

THE COLLAPSE OF CHINESE RESISTANCE IN FORMOSA.

After all the vauntings and the big words that have escaped the people of Central and Southern China, and their oburgations on the troops engaged in fighting the Japanese in Manchuria and Shantung, the sudden and complete collapse of the fiery patriots in Formosa is at once ludicrous and pitiful. The first sight of the Japanese ships sufficed to throw the fire-eaters under "President" TANG into confusion, and when the new owners of the island effected a landing almost unopposed the disorder was complete, the rout final. It appears to have been a case of *saute qui peut*, and the only idea of the valiant officials was how to get away, while that of the undisciplined "braves" was to loot when they had the chance, and they fell to work on this congenial occupation with all the ardour of born brigands. The rowdies from the Two Kwang recruited by the leader of the Black Flags to guard Formosa against all comers proved at least their ability to plunder and destroy the *lares* and *penates* of their friends, however ill fitted they were to act as their protectors. The experience of the people of Manchuria has been that of the Formosans—they welcome the Japanese as saviours from their own countrymen. Probably in the whole history of military operations no such ignominious a collapse has ever been witnessed as that of the new fledged Republic of Formosa, the Tiger with a chicken's heart. It is believed that there were upwards of 80,000 so-called troops in the island; they possessed some strong forts at the principal ports, with an immense store of arms and ammunition. It was also reported that they had armed the hillmen (Hakkas) and the aborigines, and they loudly proclaimed that they would fight to the death rather than allow the Japanese even to land on their shores, much less to take possession of the country.

Yet what has happened? Count KAYAMA can truly report, in the words used by JULIUS CÆSAR when he announced his victory over PHARNACES, "I came, I saw, I conquered!" The very appearance of his squadron struck consternation to the hearts of the Chinese; his landing was effected with only a most trivial loss, and his march to Taipei-fu was a peaceful procession. The ex-Governor and President, the boastful TANG, got away with his retainers and some two thousand troops with the utmost expedition, leaving the rest of his forces to ravage, destroy, and pillage to their heart's content. The Japanese Viceroy now has the task of restoring order and clearing out the rabble misnamed soldiers. The task will probably not be a difficult one unless they retreat to the hills, but it may take some time to bring the whole island under complete subjection. The Chinese Government have done all that was possible to render the possession of the island a doubtful good to the Japanese. They have poured into it a vast number of the rowdiest and most unruly banditti with arms in their hands, in the hope that these men will maintain a guerilla warfare against the new possessors, and they have also endeavoured to poison the minds of the aborigines against them. Only the other day a cargo of munitions of war in the steamer *Ningpo* left Canton for Formosa, although about the very time of her sailing, LI CHING-FONG, the son of LI HUNG-CHANG, was at Kelung to hand over possession of the island to Count KAYAMA. We note that this very prudent mandarin insisted upon making the trans-

fer in the steamer and then returning with all speed to Shanghai, out of reach of any infuriated Formosans. His Government have acted in this matter in their usual perfidious manner. After ceding the territory they intrigued to induce the Treaty Powers to intervene and prevent its occupation by the Japanese, and at the same time permitted reinforcements of men and supplies of munitions to continue long after the conclusion of the Treaty. Fortunately this exhibition of bad faith will avail nothing owing to the utter incapacity and cowardice of their officials, but if Japan had been involved in extended military operations in consequence of this double dealing she would have had an undoubted claim upon the Peking Government for all losses sustained through their treachery. As it happens, their designs are not likely to be realised: the project to rouse the whole population to arms has failed miserably, and the Japanese have been greeted as victors by the peaceable portion of the population, who dread them less than they do the Chinese "braves," whose unruly character and *penchant* for plunder render them a terror wherever they are quartered. The real difficulties ahead of the Japanese Viceroy are the opium question and the tendency of the Chinese population to smuggle and violate all laws by endeavouring to corrupt the officials. The Chinese are not an easily absorbed race, and they will not be allowed to remain in Formosa without abjuring their nationality. It will be interesting to see after two years, the term of probation given, what proportion of the Chinese in Formosa will surrender the queue and become Japanese subjects.

LEKIN.

In opposing the Japanese demand for the abolition of lekin LI HUNG-CHANG made effective use of the opinions expressed on this subject by British authorities. Lord ELGIN, Sir THOMAS WADE, and the Board of Trade were all quoted by the Chinese representative as having recognised the injustice of compelling China to forego taxation in this form. The Japanese yielded to the argument, and so lekin seems to have obtained a new lease of life, unless some provision in relation to it should be introduced in the commercial treaty, which has still to be negotiated. Sir THOMAS WADE is quoted as saying that the lekin tax "is not in its nature more open to objection than our income tax, nor, indeed, to any extraordinary tax by which a state short of money may recruit its finances," and that "it is hard enough on the Provincial Governments that they must give up their tolls on goods that are foreign-owned, but it will be harder still if Chinese, armed with foreigners' certificates, are to carry Chinese-owned goods toll-free from one end of the Empire to the other." This reasoning cannot command assent. When a conventional tariff is arranged the rates fixed by the tariff should be adhered to and not be augmented by additional and indeterminate taxes levied on the goods as they proceed inland to their ultimate destination. Transit dues have been recognised by treaty and their amount fixed, but the Chinese claim the right, over and above that, to levy further taxes, to any amount they please, the moment the goods pass into the hands of a native purchaser. The lekin system is a squeeze system and as such is indefensible. Its most objectionable feature is its uncertainty, there being no fixed tariff, and the farmers being allowed to make what they can out of the

trade. So oppressive are the exactions that goods not infrequently make long and costly detours in order to avoid a route on which squeeze stations are particularly numerous, as in the case of the West River, and trade generally is hampered and disorganised. Although the contention of the foreign merchants is that the payment of import duty and transit duty, as fixed by treaty, should clear goods of all further charges, they would probably be willing to assent to payment of a higher transit duty if they could thereby entirely free the goods from the illegal exactions to which they are now subjected. When it was proposed that the import duty and transit duty should be paid together on the landing of the goods it was objected that this would simply mean increasing the import duty and that the old squeezes would continue to be levied on the goods on their way inland. The same objection would no doubt be urged again were the proposition renewed. In the case of opium the system of one fixed charge has been found to work satisfactorily, but it would be difficult to keep the same close watch on the general trade that is kept on the opium trade, and the slightest opportunity of squeezing would be promptly taken advantage of. It is possible, however, that some change in the present system may be shortly proposed. In discussing the question of lekin in connection with the Shanghai Customs Report for 1894, the *Mercury* says:—"Now that the Chinese Government has to make financial arrangements for the payment to Japan of the heavy war indemnity, it has become apparent at Peking that the wasteful administration of these provincial levies on trade must be checked, if not extinguished. At present there is a see-saw between the Foreign Customs and the native tax collectors. The statesmenlike course is naturally to consolidate the whole. The multiplicity of lekin stations with which every road and watercourse in the inland provinces is infested has no necessity in practice." When it was stated that Sir ROBERT HART was to be entrusted with the financing of the Japan indemnity it was believed that his jurisdiction would be extended to some extent to the native collectorates, both maritime and inland, and it was specially mentioned that the native Custom House at Canton was to be transferred from the Hoppo's administration to that of the foreign Commissioner. There seems some doubt now whether Sir ROBERT HART is to be allowed to inaugurate any reform in this direction. The native officials are too much wedded to the squeeze system to willingly see it abolished, for it is that which lines their pockets, and so the appointment of a Board has been secured to manage the loan business of the Government and find the wherewithal to meet the payments to Japan as they become due. It is conceivable that such a Board, seeing the straits to which the country has been reduced, might take steps to check the wastefulness of the squeeze system, but what is much more probable is that an extra turn or two will be given to the screw to squeeze a little more out of the trade in foreign goods. As soon as the payment of an indemnity by China to Japan was foreseen it was foretold that it was foreign trade that would have to pay it, and it seems only too probable that that opinion will prove to be correct. If the indemnity had led to the lekin and native Customs stations being handed over to the control of Sir ROBERT HART it would have been a blessing both to China and to foreign traders, but if the amount required is to be raised by extra squeezes the outlook is anything but a pleasant one.

SPAIN AND JAPAN.

Russia is not the only Power that has viewed the rise of Japan into the position of a great nation with concern and secret apprehension. By the acquisition of Formosa, Japan has now become a near neighbour to Spain, whose splendid but ill governed possession of the Philippines forms almost a continuation from Formosa of the lengthened island chain commencing with the Kuriles in the north and running down right into the Java Sea. When Japan, in the vigour of her strength, smote and crippled the huge, inert Chinese Empire, reducing her to a quivering mass of pulp, there were not wanting observers of the deadly game who were ready to draw a contrast between the youthful, lusty energy of the Empire of the Rising Sun and the decadent languor of priest-ridden Spain, and to hint how comparatively simple a task it would be for Japan to invade and take possession of the Philippines. Under existing circumstances what, indeed, could be easier than for Japan to throw thirty thousand troops into Luzon? She has the transports and she has the men-of-war to convey them thither. The Spaniards have no fleet in Asia that could effectively oppose the Japanese fleet, and their army in the Philippines is not large. The military forces of all arms in the group only number about 12,000 men, of whom nearly 4,000 are natives. Two first-class cruisers, the *Reina Cristina* and the *Castilla*, and three third-class cruisers form the principal vessels of the squadron. There are numerous gunboats, but they are chiefly small craft, more adapted for the preservation of order among the islands than to repel a foreign foe. No doubt a considerable volunteer force could be formed, and the port of Manila would be protected by torpedo-boats, but the defences would hardly avail to keep at bay the victors of Port Arthur and Weihaiwei, with their large fleet and numerous transports.

It is true that Spain has at the moment probably a larger fleet than Japan, but it is doubtful whether she could send the vessels out in time to avert defeat at sea. She possesses one fine battleship, the *Belaya*, a vessel of 9,900 tons, and has six fast and powerful steel cruisers of 7,000 tons each, but some of these are, we believe, still uncompleted, and with the exception of two or three other large cruisers the remaining forty-two vessels of her fleet consist largely of small gunboats. On the other hand, the Japanese Navy is destitute of large battleships with the exception of the *Chen-yuen* captured from the Chinese. But Japan has vessels on the stocks, and in a very short time will be quite abreast of Spain as regards ships. Her population is considerably more than double that of Spain and her fighting power therefore greater, while Spain has the disadvantage of being about ten thousand miles from the possible scene of action. That the change in the political situation has not passed unobserved at Madrid we have proof in the fact that the Spanish Government have ordered out to the Philippines one or two additional cruisers and have sanctioned the enrolment of another native regiment. At the same time they have declared themselves satisfied of the pacific and even friendly disposition of Japan, and it has been stated that the Japanese Representative at Madrid hastened to offer assurances of his Government's peaceful disposition. For our part we feel confident that at no time has the Japanese Government ever entertained the aggressive designs so freely imputed to it by certain writers, who have been far more anxious to create a sensation than to point out a real practical danger. Japan will have enough to do to

develop the resources of Formosa and to solve some troublesome questions connected with its administration to wish to pick a quarrel with Spain. But though there is little danger to be apprehended of Japan assuming an aggressive attitude towards the Philippines it is quite probable the latter will bye and bye find in Formosa a rival in some of the products for which the Philippines have been famous. The soil of the Beautiful Island is extremely fertile, and in the hands of the Japanese is pretty certain to be better utilised than has been the case hitherto. The Spanish owners of the Philippines will do well not only to encourage and foster the cultivation of sugar, hemp, tobacco, and other products, but also to reduce the heavy tariff and revise their most odious Customs regulations, which seem to have been specially devised in order to catch unwary shipowners and masters tripping with a view to plunder them. Numerous reforms are needed in the administration in the Philippines, and with a pushing, enterprising, and civilising neighbour such as Japan ready to compete in commerce the Manila Government should lose no time in setting their house in order. There are many matters in which the Spanish Government could gather hints from Japan with much advantage, and notably is this the case with regard to customs regulations, which are so onerous and vexatious as greatly to check the growth of trade in the Philippines.

THE TAIPINGSHAN RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME.

The Legislative Council on Thursday adopted the report of the Public Works Committee with reference to the reconstruction of Taipingshan, the report being a simple recommendation that the scheme of the Director of Public Works be carried out. The Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, himself a member of the Public Works Committee, was the only dissident. The hon. gentleman suggested as an alternative that a committee be appointed, representative of the community, to associate themselves with the Director of Public Works and conjointly give a report on the best means of dealing with the property. It is possible such a committee might have approved of Mr. COOPER's scheme, or, on the other hand, it might have suggested an alternative scheme which would have proved less expensive to the colony and would at the same time have sufficiently satisfied all sanitary requirements. The committee could have done no harm and might have done much good. The Government, however, did not want such a committee, nor did the unofficial members, with the exception of Mr. BELLIOS himself, and the amendment found no seconder. The Public Works Committee, it may be mentioned, consists of the Director of Public Works, Hon. C. P. CHATER, Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, and Hon. A. McCONACHIE. Mr. CHATER was originally of opinion that total demolition was unnecessary, and that opinion was shared by Mr. McCONACHIE, but both gentlemen have been converted to Mr. COOPER's views. On the other hand, Mr. BELLIOS, who originally favoured total demolition, is now of opinion that such a drastic measure is unnecessary. Under these circumstances it would have been satisfactory if an independent committee of gentlemen fully conversant with property had been appointed to consider and report upon the matter. There is no doubt that, as Mr. CHATER expressed it, Mr. COOPER's scheme will confer upon the city a new district properly laid out and open to light and air, while any other scheme could only have been of the nature of patchwork. The improvement to be effected

in the district will be valuable and will no doubt be appreciated, but if patchwork would have sufficiently served the purpose it ought to have been adopted, for the colony is not in a position to spend large sums of money unnecessarily. It is difficult to understand what objection there could have been to the appointment of a committee of experts to consider the question. Such a committee could have made its report within a fortnight, so that the importance of avoiding delay could hardly be urged in opposition to it, and the objection would seem to have rested simply on the natural aversion to the submission of governmental schemes to public consideration. Even from the point of view of those who favour total demolition a committee might have proved useful, for it is said that in Mr. COOPER's scheme a too liberal allowance is made for streets and lanes, involving an unnecessary sacrifice of valuable land. If total reconstruction is to be carried out we would not be disposed to argue in favour of adopting a parsimonious policy in fixing the width of the streets, but an estate may be cut up economically or wastefully, and a committee of experts might have lent valuable assistance to the Government in determining how much land should be devoted to streets and how much to building purposes, in what directions the streets should run, and the class of houses to be provided for.

A POINT OF PROCEDURE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

It would conduce to the better conduct of the business of the Legislative Council if the official members had some knowledge of parliamentary procedure. At the meeting on Thursday the Hon. E. R. BELLIOS moved an amendment to the motion for the adoption of the report of the Public Works Committee on the subject of the reconstruction of Taipingshan. The amendment was not seconded, and therefore was not open to debate, one of the standing orders of the Council being that "The mover of any motion or amendment may speak in support thereof; but no further debate shall be allowed, whether the Council be in Committee or not, until the motion or amendment be duly seconded." In defiance of this rule the Director of Public Works was permitted to reply to Mr. BELLIOS. A little relaxation of a rule of that kind is, however, advisable at times, and no exception can be taken to its relaxation on the present occasion. But while indulgence was allowed, and we think rightly allowed, to an official member, this was immediately followed by a gross injustice to an unofficial member. It is provided in the standing orders that although a member may not speak more than once on any question "any member may explain himself if he has been misapprehended in any essential statement." Mr. BELLIOS rose for that purpose, after Mr. COOPER had spoken, but was at once met by a declaration by the Acting Attorney-General that "the hon. member was quite out of order." It might have been thought that the Governor, with his long experience, would have been in a position to decide a point of order for himself, but His Excellency did not overrule the Acting Attorney-General, and so Mr. BELLIOS was not allowed to explain himself. Quibbles might of course be raised as to what constitutes an explanation and what should be considered misapprehension in an essential statement, but if the case had been more gracious had the Government given the benefit of the doubt to the minority of one and allowed him to make his explanation even if not strictly in order.

especially as an indulgence had just been granted to an official member. Did we not know too well the personal character of the high officials concerned it might almost be supposed that a conspiracy had been entered into against Mr. BELILIOS, for when the hon. gentleman subsequently rose to speak to a motion for the third reading of a Bill the Acting Attorney-General interrupted him with the remark "This is the third reading of the Bill," and on Mr. BELILIOS's attempting to proceed the Colonial Secretary said—"The Bill has passed through Committee, on a resolution formally moved by the Hon. the Acting Attorney-General and seconded by myself. The hon. member had full opportunity of making any remarks he wished to make when that resolution was before the Council." That finished the matter. Mr. BELILIOS was not allowed to proceed and the Bill was read a third time. Again the Governor failed to correct the mistake into which his officers had fallen, as it was his duty to do. A motion for the third reading of a Bill is as much open to debate as any other motion. Apparently neither Mr. WISE nor Mr. STEWART LOCKHART knew that. We can hardly suppose the Governor was equally ignorant, but the point seemed to escape His Excellency for the moment. The third reading of a Bill, though generally a matter of form, is not necessarily so, and Bills are occasionally thrown out at that stage. Nothing, we are sure, could have been farther from the mind of His Excellency, or the Colonial Secretary, or the Acting Attorney-General than to burk legitimate discussion or do an injustice to Mr. BELILIOS, but that is in effect what was done. It was simply the result of want of knowledge, not of any intention to do wrong, but it is not easy to find an excuse for the want of knowledge.

II.

It would seem that the officials concerned in preventing the Hon. E. R. BELILIOS speaking at the last meeting of the Legislative Council rather regret their action, as it is natural they should, but at the same time they are inclined, we gather, to set up a technical defence. This defence, unfortunately, only lands them further in the mire. Mr. BELILIOS, conceiving himself to have been misapprehended, rose to make an explanation, as he was entitled to do under the standing rules and orders, but he was ruled out of order. It is now suggested that Mr. BELILIOS might have been in order had he risen to make his explanation before the motion was carried, but that rising when he did he was too late. As a matter of fact the motion never was carried, strictly speaking, and the Clerk of Councils will have to exercise some ingenuity to bring his minutes into proper form. What happened was this. The Director of Public Works moved the adoption of the report of the Public Works Committee, the motion was duly seconded, and Mr. BELILIOS then moved an amendment, which was not seconded; Mr. COOPER replied, and the Governor, without putting the question, said:—"The amendment not having been seconded the resolution is carried." It was at that point that Mr. BELILIOS rose to make his explanation, and it was the earliest point at which he could have done so, as His Excellency's declaration followed immediately upon the termination of Mr. COOPER's speech. But the non-seconding or negativing of an amendment by no means carries with it the adoption of a resolution. That is a mistake which is often made by inexperienced presidents of debating societies, but which ought never to be made in an assembly of practical business men and more especially in a Legislative Assembly.

where particular importance is rightly held to attach to forms of procedure. A simple illustration will show how ridiculous it is to suppose that the rejection of an amendment implies the carrying of a resolution. It is proposed, say, that no man shall wear his hair less than three inches in length; to that an amendment is proposed that the minimum length shall be four inches; the amendment is rejected. Does that necessarily imply that the original resolution is carried? According to the Governor, yes; but according to recognised rule and common sense, no. Our illustration perhaps sounds rather absurd, but in Hongkong at present we are living in an age of absurdity, and it would not be much more extravagant to regulate the length of men's hair than to pass a law, as was done the other day, that no one may keep a carriage except by permission of a Government officer to be appointed for the purpose, and that he is to be subject to regulations as to the use he may make of his carriage, if he should haply obtain permission to keep one. To come back, however, to the supposed adoption of the report of the Public Works Committee. Had the question been put, Mr. BELILIOS would necessarily have recorded his vote against the motion, because in his speech he "solemnly washed his hands" of the responsibility of authorising the expenditure which the adoption of the Public Works Committee's report involves. But the question was not put, and Mr. BELILIOS was accorded no opportunity of recording his vote. How will Mr. BUCKLE enter it up in his minutes? If he simply says that the resolution was carried the record will be imperfect, because it should be made to appear whether the resolution was opposed or not; and if he says that it was carried *nemine dissente* the statement will be contrary to fact. The correct record would be that owing to the irregularity with which the proceedings were conducted it was impossible to say exactly what was done.

Perhaps our readers may be inclined to think the whole question somewhat puerile, the substance being always more important than the form, and it being abundantly clear what the intention of the Council was. A little consideration, however, will show that questions of procedure do possess some practical importance. Half the law suits that arise are due to the neglect of common business principles, and in matters of legislation irregularity in procedure in the same way leads to confusion and uncertainty in the law. It is important, too, that the principle should be vindicated that there is not one law for the officials and another for the unofficials, as regards right of speech in the Legislative Council. The standing rules and orders are very frequently violated by the official members, and it is unseemly that the same rules should be strained in order to stop the mouth of an unofficial member. But in the case of Mr. BELILIOS it was not a question of straining, but of the total misapplication of the rules. We have already dealt with one instance in which that gentleman was obstructed in his right of speech. There still remains another. Mr. BELILIOS rose to speak on a motion for the third reading of a Bill, as he had a perfect right to do, but he was promptly stopped. The defence put forward is that discussion upon the third reading of a Bill can be entered upon only on a motion that the Bill be recommitted, in support of which rule 43 is referred to. Rule 43 provides that "if on the third reading any member desire to omit or amend any provision contained in the Bill or to introduce any fresh provision thereinto, he may move that the Bill be recommitted." That is

a very useful rule and is frequently acted upon; but it cannot be construed to mean that no debate shall be allowed on the third reading except on a motion for recommitment. The natural right of general debate remains unimpaired, the only object of the rule being to allow of a Bill's being sent back to the committee stage, which could not well be done without a special rule providing therefore. The object of sending a Bill back to committee is to enable alterations to be made, but it may happen that a member may wish to oppose the Bill *in toto*, not to make alterations, and in that case no question of sending it back to committee arises. If he does not want to oppose the Bill as a whole, but simply to introduce amendments, then his proper form of proceeding would be to move its recommitment, and for anything that appears to the contrary that may have been what Mr. BELILIOS intended to do, but he was stopped before he had any opportunity of explaining himself. Assuming, however, that Mr. BELILIOS wished to move an amendment but was not aware of the proper form of procedure it was the duty of the Governor, as President of the Council, to inform him. The President of the Council is supposed to have all the standing rules and orders at his finger-ends; the unofficial members may be excused if they are not quite so familiar with them and look to the President for guidance when any question of procedure arises. If a Judge in a court of law observes an advocate or suitor going astray on a point of procedure he will draw his attention to the error and set him right, and much more might the Governor of a Crown Colony, presiding over the Legislative Council, be expected to assist an unofficial member on any technical point, instead of allowing his subordinate officers to bluff the unofficial member into silence. It should be regarded as a case of *noblesse oblige*.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Thursday afternoon. Present:—His Excellency the Governor, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.
Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Colonial Secretary.
Hon. A. G. WISE, Acting Attorney-General.
Hon. A. M. THOMSON, Acting Colonial Treasurer.
Hon. F. A. COOPER, Director of Public Works.
Hon. Capt. W. C. H. HASTINGS, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police.
Hon. A. K. TRAVERS, Postmaster-General.
Hon. C. F. CHATER.
Hon. HO KAI.
Hon. E. R. BELILIOS, C.M.G.
Hon. A. MCCONACHIE.
Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING.
Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE, Acting Clerk of Councils.

NEW MEMBERS.

Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police, and Hon. A. K. Travers, Postmaster-General, took the oath of allegiance.

DOCUMENTS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid upon the table the following documents:—The report of the Director of the Observatory, the report of the Sanitary Superintendent, the report of the Superintendent of the Botanical and Afforestation Department, the report of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, and the Blue Book—all for 1894.

A PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Hon. A. MCCONACHIE said—I beg to ask your Excellency's permission to make a personal statement.

His EXCELLENCY assented.

Hon. A. MCCONACHIE—At the meeting of Council on the 17th April I read out an extract from the report of the Medical Committee, of which I had the honour of being a member. The fair copy came in to me for signature an hour or

so before the meeting of Council I have just referred to. It was accompanied by the draft copy previously initialed by all members. I compared both copies and found them the same word for word and appended my signature. Knowing that the Ordinance to confer certain powers and authorities on the Medical Officer of Health would come up for discussion that afternoon, I made a hurried pencil extract from the report in case I might find it useful, and it was from that hurried pencil extract note I read out. How I came to leave out certain words I cannot explain; it was entirely accidental, and I had no motive and certainly I never intended to do so. I now express regret to the Government for the omission.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY—On behalf of the Government I may say, with regard to the statement that has just been made, that it quite understands the explanation made by the hon. member. The Government never for one moment supposed that the hon. member, who has been a respected resident of this colony for so many years, would ever have been guilty of purposely and wilfully trying to mislead this Council. I am sure I am expressing, not only the views of the official members of this Council, but the views of the whole of the hon. members, when I say that the explanation given by the hon. member is satisfactory in every respect.

NOTICE OF QUESTION.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS gave notice of his intention to ask the following question—"Is it the intention of the Government to invite competitive designs from local architects for the proposed new Government offices, or do the Government propose that the designs shall be prepared and the work carried out by the Public Works Department?"

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the adoption of the report of the Finance Committee. **THE ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER** seconded. Carried.

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF TAIPINGSHAN.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I have the honour to lay upon the table the report of the meeting of the Public Works Committee held on 23rd May last, and to move its adoption. I regret to have to report to this Council that the members of the Committee are not unanimous in recommending the Council to adopt the proposed project for the improvement of the "resumed" area of Taipingshan. The hon. member on my left (**Hon. E. R. Belilios**) adheres to the belief which he entertained on the 17th September last, and expressed in this Council during the reading of the Bill for the resumption of Taipingshan, namely, that a project entailing only the patching and repairing of the buildings would be sufficient. I regret, however, although such a long time has elapsed, that the hon. member has not furnished the Government, nor, as far as I am aware, any member of this Council, with a more detailed statement of what such a project entailed, or how he proposed to carry it out. He, however, at that meeting expressed himself in favour of supporting the Government in the total destruction of the buildings, and said that such a scheme might act in somewhat the same manner as a sacrifice to the gods did in ancient times. (Laughter). Well, sir, I am not aware that any authentic records exist that such sacrifices have been attended with any beneficial results whatever, and I think it would be unbecoming on my part to assume that hon. members of this Council attach any belief in such a sacrifice, by which I understand the hon. member to mean a sacrifice to gods of wood and stone. Far be it from me for one moment to come to this Council and ask you to vote any public funds in support of such a superstition. I honestly and conscientiously believe that in what I am asking of you I am serving the best interests of this colony. I believe, sir, that by adopting this report both from a sanitary and a pecuniary point of view, we shall not be going very far wrong. At the time the Taipingshan Ordinance was before this Council the Government had not any detailed information or knowledge of what was going to be done with the area, or what any project for dealing with the area would cost. The Council, as I understand from the newspaper reports and further information I have been able to obtain—being away from the colony during the time—relied on the strong recommendations of the Permanent Committee to the Colonial Secre-

tary, dated 28th June, to resume the area of Taipingshan, re-lay the streets, widen them, and further improve them, and the strong feeling that existed at that time respecting the effect of such resumption for such objects. The project I laid before the Public Works Committee practically include these recommendations made by the Permanent Committee so far as it entails the total destruction of the buildings, the re-laying out the entire area, and the widening of the streets. From a pecuniary point of view I am bound to say that I am of opinion the resumption cannot prove profitable, and I must say that I think hon. members will agree with me when they consider the provisions of the Taipingshan Ordinance under which the owners of property have been compensated for the resumption, not on the probable future value of the property but upon the rents actually derived from the letting of basements and hovels, unfit in some cases for pig sties, as human habitations. This Council has passed measures by which such occupation is prohibited in the future, and the Sanitary Board are at the present time engaged in enforcing these regulations. But, sir, that increased rental and improved property and improved sanitation will result in the adoption of this project I have very little doubt. The total cost of the resumption up to date has been a little in excess of \$820,000. Well, now, sir, it has been urged by my hon. friend on my left that the adoption of a scheme involving the putting of a street here and the cutting of a lane there and the general repairing and patching of the existing buildings would prove more profitable to the colony. Hon. members must consider it is the duty of this Government to look the fact fairly in the face, that this property has been resumed by the Crown, has passed into the hands of the Crown, and that in dealing with it a purchaser would have to comply with the provisions of the Building Ordinance of 1889 and the recent sanitary legislation. There are in the Building Ordinance of 1889, as hon. members are aware, very important provisions dealing with the construction of back yards in all cases where buildings are erected on property purchased from the Crown since the passing of that Ordinance. I have very little hesitation in saying that the majority of the buildings in Taipingshan at the present moment do not comply with those provisions, and the purchaser—if one could be found—of the patched up and repaired property might still continue to let it for human habitation, but on the decay of existing buildings and proposing to construct new buildings, in what position would he find himself? The majority of the lots are of very small depth, some of them measuring only 32 or 33 feet in depth. If the hon. member on my left (**Hon. E. R. Belilios**) takes away four or five feet which the provisions of the Ordinance require to give sufficient yard space, what would there be left? The purchaser would find that he had, after allowing for cook house, wells, &c., only a nett area of about 18 feet by 15 feet. That the Government can go into the market with property of that description and expect to get any return commensurate with the expenditure of \$800,000, I think there can be only one opinion. It is practically impossible. On pointing these facts out to the hon. member at the last meeting of the Public Works Committee he suggested that as this was a special case it might be worth while for the Government to reconsider its legislation in regard to this area. Well, sir, these provisions have been passed, not with the idea of obtaining at any cost an ideal city, but for the benefit of the public health of the colony they have been considered by hon. members absolutely necessary. It is therefore utterly impossible, I think, that any member of the Council should now say "We find that these provisions which we think necessary for the health and the safety of the public are going to touch the public purse and therefore we will have nothing to do with them." I am sure, sir, that such a position would be practically impossible to maintain, and I trust that no hon. member of this Council will bring such a motion as that before the Council. With these few remarks I beg to move that the report be adopted.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—Sir, I beg to second the resolution just moved by the Director of Public Works, and in doing so I am echoing the opinion of my unofficial colleagues, with the exception of the hon. member opposite (**Hon. E. R. Belilios**), who no doubt will express his

views on the subject shortly. It will be in your Excellency's recollection that at the Council meeting of the 17th September, 1891, I moved for the appointment of a Commission to decide whether the original plan of destruction of Taipingshan should be carried out or not. It is hardly necessary for me to remind you that the original plan or, if I may say so, the popular plan, was that of total destruction by fire, involving, as I then pointed out, a very large expense to the Government, while it was my hope that if the Commission I asked for were appointed, it would perhaps fall in with my views, formulated after personal inspection of the district, viz., that a partial destruction, that of the foulest and wholly irredeemable blocks, together with the adoption of the necessary measures for rendering the remainder sanitary, the cutting away of the backs of houses, and the making of new lanes and back yards, and thereby permitting the introduction of light and the proper circulation of air, would be sufficient. Since then the circumstances have altered. Mr. Cooper returned from leave, made minute surveys, and issued a report, the outcome of his labours being the scheme he has laid before us, from which it will be seen he has quite abandoned the idea of total destruction by fire. I need hardly say that I have gone most carefully into this scheme. We have had two meetings of the Public Works Committee, and one of the unofficial members called specially to discuss this matter, to which Mr. Cooper was invited and came, and I have also had private interviews with that gentleman. As a result, I have come to the conclusion that, under the circumstances, his scheme is preferable to mine. The main difference between the two consists in that while I contemplated partial destruction, and the opening to light and air of the better constructed blocks, Mr. Cooper advocates pulling down all the houses, with the exception of one block and laying out afresh the entire area. I am still of opinion that had my plan been adopted, though the initial expenses would have been heavier, yet the property would have eventually realized more, the buildings still remaining standing over a considerable portion of the area; and that Mr. Cooper, though the sum he proposes is a smaller one, yet will not obtain so much from the sale of material and sites as would have been realized from the execution of my proposal. The great advantage, however, which his proposal is that, instead of a lot of narrow and irregular streets constructed without any regard to proper arrangement or sanitation, it will confer upon the city a new district properly laid out, and open to light and air, while mine could only have been of the nature of patch-work. Another advantage in his scheme which I may point out is that all the buildings can now be erected in conformity with all the additions and emendations lately made in the Health and Building Ordinances. It is for these reasons that my colleagues and myself, with the one exception, consider that Mr. Cooper's proposal should be adopted.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—I have to propose an amendment, sir. In making my remarks I will not take up the time of the Council in going back beyond the four corners of the report of my hon. friend on my right (**Hon. E. A. Cooper**). I am glad to note that the Government have finally abandoned the idea of burning the houses, and I also observe from his report that Mr. Cooper, at all events, is of opinion that the bacillus of the plague is not to be found in the soil, and that the wood and the other materials of the buildings are not infected. So far this is satisfactory to hear, but I should have thought these conclusions furnished strong arguments in favour of adopting and improving the buildings as they stand rather than of destroying them and laying out the area afresh as proposed by my hon. friend on my right. The plan laid before us has been carefully prepared and is creditably got up, and it is with real regret I feel it my duty to oppose it. The plan, moreover, falls in with my individual interests as a property owner, which are best served by having a large number of dwellings closed, as it has a tendency to drive up rents and fill my empty houses. Such a consideration must not, however, be allowed to weigh in the balance with the welfare of the colony, which I propose to show will be most adversely affected if this scheme is permitted to be carried into effect. With your permission I will briefly endeavour to show what Mr. Cooper's plan will cost.

He estimates the cost of laying out the area afresh at \$83,000. Now to carry out this plan, sell the sites, and get them all built upon, so that rates and taxes may again be collected from the district, will take, I believe, at least six years. There would therefore have to be reckoned five years' interest on \$820,000, the cost of the resumption, which at $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. per annum would amount to about \$145,000 added to the \$83,000 for laying it out, or altogether roughly \$1,050,000. Now is it at all likely this amount would be realised by the sale of the ground? I do not think any member present will pretend to say that such a sum can be obtained, the building area having been reduced from 257,000 to 183,000 square feet, a reduction of 69,000 square feet. Half a million dollars is much nearer the figure the Government is likely to get. It should not be forgotten that the Praya Reclamation is going on simultaneously, and land can to-day be purchased on sea frontage for from \$1 to \$6 a foot. Is it at all probable we can get on an average more than \$24 per foot for the land in Taipingshan? Happily there is an alternative project. As it is now known that fire is not necessary as a cleansing agent, and that the germs of disease are neither in the houses nor in the soil, the resumed area can readily, and at a comparatively small outlay, be placed in a good sanitary condition. The streets were quite recently drained, channelled, kerbed, and paved. Some of the houses might even now serve as models for improvement to the owners of hundreds of tenements in worse slums in this city, and with a reasonable expenditure the district could be converted into a cleanly and healthy one. Fortunately we have in the *Government Gazette* of the 6th March, in the report by the Arbitration Board—Messrs. Ackroyd, Alford, and Danby—a careful estimate of the cost at which the houses in the condemned district can be made fit for human habitation. Details are given of every lot, and the gross amount is only \$30,924.79. Say, however, that this estimate would have to be exceeded, and allow \$40,000. That is less than half the cost of destroying the property and laying it out afresh, and as a matter of fact Mr. Cooper's estimate would also probably be exceeded and the area for sale would very possibly be reduced 80,000 square feet. Then have regard to the saving in time. If the houses were placed in a sanitary condition the work might be done in twelve months, and the district be available for habitation before the summer of 1896. On the other hand, if it be decided to destroy and lay the district out afresh, shall we not be in danger of a repetition of the wanton waste of public money which followed the clearing of the site for the present Queen's College, which lay idle for about ten years and cost the colony by loss of interest alone tens of thousands of dollars? The vacant land and ruined bungalow still standing in front of the Police compound furnishes an instructive lesson of the procrastination of Government in such matters. It has been lying useless and non-productive for more than twenty years. I hope that in this question of the disposition of the resumed area in Taipingshan business principles will be allowed to prevail. There will, I take it, be a loss in any case, but let us do our best to limit it to say half a lakh of dollars and recomp ourselves by raising the Crown rent when we resell the land. Hon. members will be interested to hear that the total area of public and private property resumed consists of 356,000 square feet. Out of these the hon. member proposes to set aside 163,000 square feet for streets, leaving only 183,000 square feet for building purposes. In other words, to use up 45 per cent. of the land for streets. A most injudicious and inadvisable mode of dealing with the property. By adopting the plan of the Director of Public Works, and allowing \$75,000 for errors, omissions, and price of loose materials, we shall augment that loss to half a million dollars. Are we prepared to accept that responsibility? Have we any right to so squander the public money? I say we have not, and I solemnly wash my hands of that responsibility. I should ill have discharged my duty to the public had I not, to the best of my poor ability, offered my protest against this proposed waste of funds, which are so urgently needed for improvement of other portions of the city not one whit less in need of it. If we adopt this plan we shall have only 200 odd houses in the place of 417 houses now

standing in the condemned district. Besides these buildings it will be remembered the Sanitary Board condemned 100 odd houses in other parts of the city. These houses were by a mere fluke, a mere accident, not resumed by the Government. Yet we see that these houses are being cleansed, renovated, and occupied, whilst we are hesitating as to what might be done with this large property in our hands. There are good and bad localities in every city in the world. There is the East End and the West End of the city of London. It would be wise, sir, to reserve in our midst a cheap, healthy district for the occupation of our poor. We should not compel them to pay high rents or compel them to desert this island "for fresh woods and pastures new" on account of high rent. To spend money in improving the land in Taipingshan would be tantamount to spending scent in the desert air. The land is not adapted for much improvement, and it ought therefore to be left alone. If the Public Works Department have time and labour to spare, they had better devote such labour to opening out sites to the east and the west of us. If the Government have money to spare, better let the money out in the construction of a tramway round the island, and open out cheap sites and thus relieve the overcrowding that is going on in the centre of our city. This is a matter which concerns almost every resident in the colony, and it affects the public purse. It is a huge venture, a great undertaking, and a big speculation. In order to be sure that we are not making a mistake it would be wise to seek for the advice of experts outside this Council, and I beg to propose this resolution—"That, before a final decision as to the condemned area of Taipingshan be arrived at, a Committee formed of representatives of the community, to consist of Messrs. Granville Sharp—(laughter)—W. Danby, S. G. Bird, and A. Denison, be appointed, to associate themselves with the Hon. the Director of Public Works, and conjointly give a report on the best means of disposing of property resumed by the Government." On the last occasion this question was before the Council you kindly permitted all my official colleagues to vote as they thought fit on this subject. I hope on this occasion you will give them the same latitude, so that we may arrive at an honest decision.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I shall be glad to do so when the amendment is seconded. Does anybody second the amendment?

There was no seconder, and HIS EXCELLENCY remarked—I am afraid you have no seconder.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—Though the hon. member's amendment has not been seconded, I think his speech may be considered as one opposed to the motion before this Council. I should therefore like to make one or two remarks in reply. The hon. member has given me the credit of a good deal perhaps, but I think a more careful perusal of my report will show that in that report, especially as regards the source of infection, I absolutely confine myself to recording facts and not expressing opinions on what is entirely a medical question, and not an engineering one at all. The hon. member has again referred to his wonderful and economical scheme, but I should like to point out one important matter that he has entirely overlooked. In the project I laid before the Public Works Committee the back lanes had been laid out in such a way as to render it unnecessary to construct back yards. If the scheme referred to by my hon. friend on my left is carried out a portion of the building sites or of the 417 houses which he takes credit for will have to be devoted to back yards. If you compare the total area for domestic occupation as proposed in his scheme with that proposed by mine you will find that in the hon. member's scheme you will have to take from the area of each lot, probably in the case of three storey houses fifteen feet and in the case of two storey houses ten feet. If the hon. member will figure that out I think he will find that the area which is proposed to be devoted to the streets, thus obviating the necessity of providing back yards to houses, will not be of such magnitude as the back yards which in his scheme it will be necessary to provide. He has talked about a business-like manner of dealing with the question. I must say that the remarks of the hon. member did not strike me as being business like. He has talked about selling the land and then recouping the expenditure by raising the Crown rents. No

man would buy land without first enquiring what the Crown rent was. So what he means by recouping by raising Crown rents after selling the land I am at a total loss to understand. He also states that the adoption of this report is a great speculation. Well, sir, if speculation in connection with this project existed at all it existed when this Council passed the Ordinance for the resumption of Taipingshan. It was not then a question of pecuniary profit; it was a question of sanitation, a question of doing something for the good of this colony, from a sanitary point of view. To talk about speculation commencing at this period is, I think, quite out of the question. I think, sir, the hon. member touched on a great many matters which were totally irrelevant—outside railways, &c., which I must say I do not think have any thing to do with obtaining a return on the sum of money already expended on the resumption of Taipingshan.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The amendment not having been seconded the resolution is carried.

HON. E. R. BELILIOS—I should like to point out that the hon. member did not follow my speech.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The hon. member is quite out of order.

THE ARMS CONSOLIDATION ORDINANCE.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I have to move the first reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to supplement Ordinance 8 of 1895. (The Arms Consolidation Ordinance, 1895)." In doing so I might mention that the object of this Bill is to supplement certain sections—sections 6 and 15 of the Arms Ordinance passed the other day. In those two sections there is no penalty. They deal with dealers and their registers, and the absence of a penalty is clearly an omission. This Bill provides for a penalty.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to second. Bill read a first time, carried through all its stages, and passed.

NATURALIZATION ORDINANCE.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the first reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance for the naturalization of Samuel Donnenberg." This gentleman wishes to become a volunteer, and you will notice that the Bill is confined to Hongkong.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to second. Bill read the first time, carried through all its stages, and passed.

ORDINANCES POSTPONED.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have the honour to move that Orders No. 4 and 5 be discharged from the Orders of the Day. It is not the intention of the Government, at any rate for the present, to proceed with these Bills.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded. Carried.

AN AMENDING ORDINANCE.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the third reading of "An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 17 of 1887." This is a very short Ordinance. As a matter of fact it puts in only one word in section 7 of Ordinance 17 of 1887. When this Ordinance was brought up before there appeared to be some difficulty in the mind of my hon. friend opposite as to the interpretation of the word Government. The object of the Ordinance is to enable the Government to have these depots under their own control, and to eliminate outside depots, because these depots are not likely to be so well constructed or so well looked after as Government depots. That is the reason for the insertion of the word Government.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to second.

HON. E. R. BELILIOS—I wish to point out—

THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—This is the third reading of the Bill.

HON. E. R. BELILIOS—Supposing—

THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—It is rather late for explanations; this is the third reading.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY—The Bill has passed Committee, on a resolution formally moved by the hon. the Acting Attorney-General, and seconded by myself. The hon. member had full opportunity of making any remarks he wished to make on the point to which he refers when that resolution was before the Council. I beg to second the third reading of the Bill.

Bill read the third time and passed.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL.

THE ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—I am moving the second reading of the Supplemental

itary Appropriation Bill for 1894 I wish to make one or two remarks on the state of the finances during that year. The actual expenditure for the year 1894, including public works not chargeable to the loan, amounted to \$2,299,096 as compared with an estimate of \$1,993,931, the difference in excess being \$305,165; but as credit cannot be taken for any surplus on votes for different Departments nor on any surplus on items in public works, which together amount to \$55,230.83, the total now to be authorized is \$355,395.88. The excess expenditure due to fall of exchange was over \$150,000; for plague about \$152,000; building grant to the Po Leung Kuk \$20,000, and for exchange compensation \$22,000; these four items together amounting to about the whole of the excess now to be sanctioned. If there had been no plague, only \$200,000 would have been required, of which sum three-fourths was due to fall in exchange, and there would have been a clear surplus of \$140,000. The actual revenue for 1894 was \$2,287,203, and as the expenditure was \$2,299,036, the deficit was only \$11,833, or, if public works extraordinary be excluded, there was an actual surplus of \$600. I consider this is a very fortunate state of affairs, taking into account the heavy unforeseen expenditure which had to be incurred throughout the year. I ask the Council to give the Bill their favourable consideration, and I shall be ready to give fuller details in Finance Committee if they are considered desirable.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill, and avail myself of the opportunity of stating that the Bill will be referred to the Finance Committee. I understand that your Excellency's intention is to wait, so that the third reading may be taken.

The Bill was then considered by the Finance Committee, under the presidency of Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—I should like to know if any answer has been received from the Secretary of State to His Excellency's despatch with regard to the military contribution.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—No reply has yet been received from the Colonial Office, but I think I may inform the Committee that a reply is expected very shortly on the question of the military contribution.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—I hope it will be a favourable one.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I hope so; I cannot say whether it is to be favourable or unfavourable, but I am sure it has received careful consideration.

Hon. Ho Kai—It will convey the decision of the inter-Departmental Committee sitting on this question?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I believe it will convey the decision of that Committee.

The Committee having recommended the Bill, Council resumed.

Bill read the third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I have no more business for the Legislative Council, and I have very great pleasure in releasing you from your labours and adjourning *sine die*. I am extremely obliged to the senior unofficial member and the other unofficial members for the advice and assistance given to the Government during the session, assistance which has been much appreciated and advice which we have constantly adopted. I trust it may not be necessary to summon the Council regularly until late, very late, in the autumn. It is possible, however, that we may have one or two meetings in the meantime. I think when we consider what the colony was passing through at this time last year we have great reason to be thankful, when we recollect that, with the exception of three or four sporadic cases of plague in April, there has been no single case of that disease for upwards of one month. (Applause). The work of the Sanitary Board is going on vigorously, energetically, yet quietly and unostentatiously, and I have great hope that we may be spared an outbreak of any disease during the coming year. Now that the China-Japan war is happily ended and exchange fairly steady, I think we may look forward to an increase in and expansion of our trade and consequent good results to the community generally. With these few remarks, I now state that this Council stands adjourned *sine die*.

WHARF ACCOMMODATION.

Mr. Alf. Woolley, Acting Superintendent of the P. & O. Company, writes us:—

Enclosed herewith I beg to hand you copies of some correspondence on this subject which may be of interest to the Public, more especially that section whose business or pleasure takes them afloat in the waters of the colony, by whom the measures proposed to be adopted by the Government cannot fail to be generally appreciated.

(Enclosures.)

Hongkong, 13th May, 1895.

Sir,—With reference to the resolution passed at the Annual Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on the 19th ultimo, regarding the want of adequate facilities along the sea front for the numerous steam launches required by the community in the transaction of the business of the colony afloat, and in view of the absolute danger that exists to life and property in using the New Peddar's Wharf owing to the congested state of the traffic at that point, a danger which will be shortly greatly increased by the closing of old Peddar's Wharf, we, the undersigned members of the shipping and mercantile community, would beg to draw the attention of the Government to the inadequateness of the wharf accommodation on the Praya for steam launches, owing to the reclamation works now in progress, and as a means of surmounting the difficulty would venture to suggest to His Excellency that one or more bamboo jetties should be erected at or near old Peddar's or the P. & O. Wharf, to enable launches to come alongside at any state of the tide until the Reclamation is so far advanced as to admit of permanent wharves being constructed.

Attached for His Excellency's information is a sketch plan showing the positions suggested for two temporary bamboo jetties, which it is proposed should be constructed parallel with the new Praya Wall and in such manner as to interfere very little indeed with the work now in progress thereon.

A footway of earth could readily be made from the old Praya wall to the new one, and connecting with the jetties to give access for passengers.

We are of opinion that two jetties, say 100 ft. by 20 to 25 ft. each, could be put up and maintained in repair by a bamboo contractor at a cost of \$40 to \$50 per month each, or thereabouts (exclusive of typhoon damage), but the question of cost must necessarily depend upon the dimensions and strength of the structures sanctioned by the proper authorities, but would after all be a small matter compared with the convenience that would accrue therefrom to the community at large.—We have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servants,

A. WOOLLEY, Superintendent P. & O. S. N. Co.

D. E. BROWN,

Per D. W. CRADDOCK, General Agent C. P. R.

E. OSBORNE, Secretary Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company.

J. S. VAN BUREN, Agent P. M. S. S. Co. and O. & O. Co.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.

For HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK Co., LIMITED;

R. COOKE, Acting General Manager.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

For the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

T. JACKSON, Chief Manager.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

p. pro. DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co.

W. PARFITT.

W. PARFITT, Chairman, Board of Directors, Hongkong Hotel Co.

DODWELL, CARLILL & Co.

SHAW & Co.

H. U. JEFFRIES, Manager, Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

The Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary, Hongkong.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
1st June, 1895.

Sir,—Adverting to your letter of the 13th ultimo submitting certain proposals for increasing the wharf accommodation in the vicinity of Peddar's Wharf during the construction of the Praya Reclamation Works, I am directed by

His Excellency the Governor to inform you that arrangements are being made to erect a temporary landing near Ice House Lane and to place the platform of the temporary Market Building in such a condition as to serve a similar purpose.

His Excellency regrets that the construction of the piers suggested in your letter above referred to is at present impracticable, owing to the interference such structures if they are to be of any use to the community, would cause with the progress of the reclamation work, but it is hoped that by the end of the typhoon season such works will be sufficiently advanced to dispose of this objection, in which case a temporary jetty will be erected approximately to the westerly position proposed by you, viz., in front of Messrs. Douglas Lapraik's office.

I have further to inform you that, though everything will be done to push on with the construction of the new Peddar's Wharf, and pending the completion of this work to keep the existing wharf open to traffic as far as possible, it is impracticable to erect a temporary pier in this situation, owing to the extensive nature of the foundations required for the new wharf.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary

A. Woolley, Esq., Superintendent, Peninsular and Oriental S. N. Co.

Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company.

Hongkong, 4th June, 1895.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1,193, dated 1st June, and beg to thank you for your courteous reply to my letter of the 13th May submitting certain proposals for increasing the wharf accommodation in the vicinity of Peddar's Wharf during the construction of the Praya Reclamation Works, and purpose publishing the letters herein referred to for general information and providing you have no objection to this course, as I think the shipping community more especially will be glad to learn what is proposed to be done in the matter.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

ALF. WOOLLEY.

The Honourable J. H. Stewart Lockhart,
Colonial Secretary.

PRESENTATIONS TO MR. C. F. A. SANGSTER.

A pleasant little ceremony took place at the Wigwam, Kowloon, on Friday afternoon, when Mr. C. F. A. Sangster, who a few weeks ago resigned the position of organist of St. John's Cathedral after thirty-five years' service, was presented with addresses and testimonials by the choir and congregation. Mr. W. M. Wood, one of the most active members of the choir, having the Wigwam at his disposal yesterday, it was arranged that the address from the choir should be presented there and invitations were accordingly issued to the members of the choir and their friends to be present. Subsequently it was arranged that the presentation of the address from the congregation should be made at the same time and place and a notification to that effect was issued on Wednesday. There was accordingly a considerable gathering of ladies and gentlemen at the time appointed.

The address from the choir was handsomely bound in blue velvet and bore a silver monogram of an ingenious and artistic design. The S was crossed by a musical bar with the notes C, F., A., those being Mr. Sangster's initials. Accompanying the address was a silver claret cup, and in the chasing of this allusion was also made to the circumstances of the presentation, the principal feature in the design being Orpheus with his lute. The address was as follows:—

"Hongkong, Easter, 1895.

"To

"C. F. A. Sangster, Esq.

"On the occasion of your retirement after thirty-five years' service, we, the undersigned members of the choir of St. John's Cathedral, avail ourselves of the opportunity to present you with the accompanying piece of plate as a slight mark of our esteem and in high appreciation of the tact and musical ability

displayed by you in your dual capacity as organist and choirmaster.

"We one and all sincerely hope that long years, endowed with every blessing and happiness, await you in the course of your well-earned retirement."

The presentation was made on behalf of the choir by Mr. Crow, who alluded to the pleasant relations which had always existed between Mr. Sangster and the choir and to Mr. Sangster's high qualifications for the post he had held. Mr. Crow also in feeling terms expressed the good wishes of the choir for Mr. Sangster and the hope that they might again have the pleasure of hearing his masterly touch in some cathedral or large church in England.

Miss Lammert then gracefully handed the address and cup to Mr. Sangster.

Mr. Sangster in thanking the choir for their handsome present and Mr. Crow for his kind remarks stated that he resigned the position of organist because he was making arrangements to leave for home, and expressed the great regret he felt at severing the association which had so long existed between himself and the choir and from which he had derived so much pleasure. He referred to the presence of ladies in the choir and the assistance they afforded, and concluded by again expressing his thanks for the address and the kind sentiments it expressed.

The address from the congregation, which was as follows, was then presented by Mr. T. Jackson:—

"Hongkong, June 7th, 1895.

"C. F. A. SANGSTER, Esq.

"Dear Sir,

"We, the undersigned seatholders in the St. John's Cathedral, and other friends, ask you, on your approaching departure from Hongkong, to accept the accompanying Japanese cabinet and vases as a slight recognition of the valuable musical services and assistance rendered by you not only as organist to the Cathedral but to the community generally during the last thirty-five years, and in presenting them to you we add our best wishes for your future welfare.

"We are, Dear Sir,

"Yours faithfully,"

In handing the address to Mr. Sangster Mr. Jackson made one of his characteristically genial and humorous speeches. He said he heard Mr. Sangster play in 1864, when they were both slimmer in person and had more hair on the top of their heads than they had now. Mr. Sangster, he said, had afforded pleasure to several generations, for although at home thirty years was counted a generation, in Hongkong that period covered several. Referring to Mr. Crow's remarks as to Mr. Sangster's abilities Mr. Jackson said that some five years ago when he (Mr. Jackson) was resident here—he counted himself a visitor now, though his visits were rather frequent—a clergyman passed through Hongkong who had a letter of introduction to himself. He attended the evening service at St. John's Cathedral with him; that evening there was a beautiful anthem, to which the organist and choir did full justice, and the clergyman told him that he had never enjoyed a service more. Amongst those who ought to feel most indebted to Mr. Sangster, Mr. Jackson said, were those who had sung in the choir as boys and enjoyed the benefit of Mr. Sangster's training, amongst whom he might mention Harry Hall and some of those who were present that afternoon. With a humorous allusion to the size of the cabinet and the space it would occupy Mr. Jackson handed the address to Mr. Sangster.

Mr. Sangster again feelingly expressed his thanks and his regret at leaving the organ.

On the call of Mr. Jackson three hearty cheers were given for Mr. Sangster, and the company then adjourned to tea and tennis.

The blessings of "independence," the *N. C. Daily News* says, have not yet been very noticeable in Korea, and the latest news to hand from Seoul represents a very chaotic state of affairs. The members of the Cabinet have resigned and Pak Yang-ho is acting as Prime Minister, whilst Count Inouye, who went to Korea to arrange something like order, is said to be on the point of leaving for Japan. The air is full of conspiracies and plottings, and officials attempting to exercise too much "independence" find themselves objects of attention from Japanese guards or police.

PRESENTATION BY THE VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB TO MR. C. H. THOMPSON.

On Wednesday afternoon Mr. C. H. Thompson was presented with a handsome silver bowl by Mr. H. E. Wodehouse, C.M.G., on behalf of the members of the Victoria Recreation Club. Mr. Wodehouse, the Chairman of the Club, said that Mr. Thompson had been for several years connected with the Club, and had served on the sub-committee of the gymnasium and in other departments of the Club. Much of the success that had attended the gymnasium was due to Mr. Thompson, who took a keen interest in gymnastics. (Applause). He (the speaker) was told that Mr. Thompson was the champion light weight of the Club. He had no desire to test that assertion—(laughter)—and was very glad to take it for granted that no member would venture to deny that Mr. Thompson did hold that position. Some men, on going home, felt that their existence in Hongkong had been rather lonely, and wished for a companion to share their joys and troubles. (Laughter). If Mr. Thompson felt lonely, and brought back to the colony a companion for life, every member would welcome Mrs. Thompson, and hope they would enjoy a happy life for many years. (Applause).

Mr. Thompson, in reply, thanked Mr. Wodehouse for his kind remarks and the members of the Club for their handsome present. It seemed a pity, he said, that a Club like this, which was such a necessary institution in the colony, did not have a more attractive and imposing exterior. (Applause). The question of site was a difficult one, but he thought that if the Government was approached a better site than the present one could be obtained, and a more substantial building, which typhoons would not damage, erected. The members would be almost ashamed to invite competitors from Shanghai and Yokohama to such a building as the present one, but he hoped they would come before long. (Applause).

Cheers for Mr. Wodehouse, Mr. Thompson, and Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart (Colonial Secretary) were then given, and the proceedings closed.

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the fourth ordinary general meeting to be held at the Hongkong Hotel, on Saturday next:—

The directors beg to submit to the shareholders a statement of accounts showing the results of the Company's working for the year ending 31st December, 1894. The net profit for the year amounts to \$1,186.95, from which has to be taken the auditor's fee, \$150.00; the balance \$1,036.95 has been deducted from last year's debit, which now stands at \$14,771.82. Mr. T. G. Joy, whose agreement expired on the 9th April, having other engagements, now resigns and hands over charge to Mr. W. Hughes, who has been appointed as Acting Manager.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. Bain and Andrew offer themselves for re-election, but a new director will have to be appointed in the place of Mr. Fenwick, who now retires.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. W. H. Gaskell, who offers himself for re-election.

GEO. FENWICK,

Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Hongkong, 7th June, 1895.

THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report of the Board of the Directors to the sixth ordinary yearly meeting of shareholders to be held at the Company's offices, No. 29, Queen's Road, at noon on Saturday, the 22nd June:—

Gentlemen,—Your directors have the pleasure to submit the Company's accounts for the year ending 30th April, 1895, and are pleased to report that a steady increase has been made in the supply of the electric light.

The working account shows a credit balance of \$8,858.35, which transferred to profit and loss account leaves it with a balance to credit of \$16,106.82. Your directors propose to write off plant account \$10,000 to provide for depreciation, and carry forward the balance of \$8,106.82 to a new account.

By reference to the Manager's report annexed it will be seen that the number of incandescent lamps installed and connected with the Company's mains has been largely increased, and the amount of

installation work and other outside work carried on during the twelve months shows a great improvement compared with the previous year. Many of the lamps installed have only recently been at work; therefore the full benefit has not been obtained in the receipts for current supplied during the period under review.

Your directors have forfeited 514 shares on which calls have not been paid.

DIRECTORS.

Hon. J. J. Keswick resigned on leaving the colony, and Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving has been invited to take his place: his appointment now requires confirmation. Messrs. H. L. Dalrymple and J. Kramer retire by rotation, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

ACCOUNTS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. G. Stewart (in place of Mr. J. Ross Anton, who has left the colony) and J. C. Peter, and they offer themselves for re-election.

H. L. DALRYMPLE,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 5th June, 1895.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS TO APRIL 30TH, 1895.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital:—			
29,186 shares each \$3 paid-up=	\$233,488		
568 shares each \$6 paid-up=	3,408		
246 shares each \$2 paid-up=	492		
		237,388	00
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, amount			
overdrawn	4,010.83		
Bills payable	8,990.61		
Sundry creditors	4,295.16		
Suspense account	20.00		
Balance of profit and loss account	16,106.82		
		\$270,801.42	

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Plant, cost of and erection of same.....	179,158.60		
Property, cost of land and buildings	60,607.35		
Installation material, stock of.....	12,929.12		
Stores and coal, stock of	6,127.11		
Tools, &c., on hand	1,566.90		
Furniture, cost of.....	516.60		
Insurance, value of unexpired portion of			
policies	100.00		
Cash in hand	1,692.09		
Sundry debtors	7,106.65		
		\$270,801.42	

WORKING ACCOUNT.

Dr.		\$	c.
To salaries and wages	17,866.70		
To installation material	18,811.51		
To coals	10,673.20		
To stores	5,672.69		
To office expenses.....	2,000.00		
To rent and taxes	1,231.05		
To repairs	952.90		
To interest	598.22		
To charges	501.67		
To insurance	358.84		
To stationery	202.60		
To tools	129.81		
To auditors' fees	100.00		
To medical attendance	75.00		
To bad debts	14.00		
To amount carried to profit and loss account	8,858.35		
		\$68,071.54	

Cr.		\$	c.
By gross earnings of the Company	68,034.54		
By scrip and transfer fees	37.00		
		\$68,071.54	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.		\$	c.
To amount carried to next account.....	16,106.82		
		\$16,106.82	
Cr.		\$	c.
By balance brought forward from last account.....	7,248.47		
By balance of working account brought down	8,858.35		
		\$16,106.82	

THE MANAGER'S REPORT.

Hongkong, 5th June, 1895.

To the Directors of the Hongkong Electric Co., Limited.
Gentlemen,—On the 30th April, 1894, the number of incandescent lamps installed and supplied by the Company's plant amounted to about 1,400, equivalent to 2,240 lamps of 8-candle power.

I have now to report that the number of lamps installed and connected to the Company's mains at the end of April last amounted to about 2,300, equivalent to 3,740 lamps of 8-candle power, and since that date a further number of lamps, amounting to about 100, have been brought into use.

The number of arc lamps supplied for street lighting remains the same as at the date of the last report. The plant and machinery have been maintained in good working order.—I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

W. H. WICKHAM,
Manager.

DJEDJIYE AND HIS INKHORN.

A NEW TALE FROM THE ARABIAN NIGHTS.

Many years after the death of Suleyman Ibn Daoud (on whom be peace), there reigned in the land of the infidels a certain queen, great and powerful. Her empire extended over many nations and peoples, from the Western Sea to the Island of China. Now upon a certain day this Queen called her Wezeer and said to him, "O Wezeer, thou knowest that the Island of China is without a Governor and I am desirous of sending thither a wise and prudent person to be the Governor of the Island. I command thee, therefore, that thou choose from among my Emirs the man who is most worthy, and that thou bring him before me at such a time, so that I may send him to be Governor over the Island of China and its dependencies." And the Wezeer said, "I hear and obey." Then he went out from the presence of the Queen and took counsel with the old men that were his friends and at the hour appointed he brought to the Queen an Emir called Ibn Rabin (the son of a bird) and she made him Governor of the Island. Now Ibn Rabin was tall and of a comely countenance, but in nowise skilled in the arts of government. And he came to the Island of China and ruled over it for the space of three years.

In that place there was a certain man by name Djédjiyé famous for his eloquence, insomuch that the people called him El Kuseyi (the father of words). And if any owed money and he to whom the debt was due had made complaint to the Kadi, the debtor straightway used to go to Djédjiyé and give him a present, so that he might speak for him to the Kadi. Then Djédjiyé used to go to the hall where the Kadi sat on the seat of judgment, and whenever the Kadi saw him he bowed his head and saluted him on account of his great reputation for learning and eloquence. And after salutations the Kadi would say, "O Djédjiyé, tell me how I may serve thee." And Djédjiyé would reply, "O Kadi, a judge must shut his ears to falsehood and protect virtue. It is said that a complaint hath been made against such an one thy servant, that he doth owe money; but the man is well known to me and he is the richest and most honourable among all the sons of the merchants. How then should he owe aught to any man? If therefore a complaint hath been made to thee against this just and virtuous person, it is meet that he who made it should be beaten and cast into prison." And the Kadi would say, "So be it." Thus Djédjiyé was held in great honour, for all men saw that he was able to persuade the Kadi to do whatsoever he wished. Moreover this Djédjiyé was a man of an active and bustling disposition, and one who took a delight in busying himself about public matters. And there was enmity between him and the Governor Ibn Rabin. And so often as the Governor issued a proclamation Djédjiyé used to speak to the people concerning it and say, "Woe to you, O ye people! Do ye still permit this son of a bird to rule over you?" Then the people murmured against the proclamation. Wherefore Ibn Rabin was wrath with Djédjiyé and sought an occasion to punish him.

Now the sons of the merchants who resorted to the Island of China for traffic brought not with them any servants from their own countries, but they were served by the Djinn (celestial beings) who dwelt in the Island. These Djinn formerly possessed the land, but they rebelled against Suleyman Ibn Daoud (on whom be peace), and he conquered them and laid on them a curse that for 10,000 years they should serve all those who should come to the Island. After the death of Suleyman many merchants came thither to purchase tea and silk and other articles of merchandise, and they built for themselves dwelling houses, and store houses, and mosques. But the Djinn abode in caverns and came forth from them to attend upon the merchants. These caverns were foul and noisome, and the stench which arose from them was noxious both to man and beast.

In the 4th year of the Government of Ibn Rabin a great pestilence arose in the Island of China, and many men died thereof. And the Governor consulted with the wise men and they all with one accord declared that the pestilence would not abate until the caverns of the Djinn were made clean. Then the

Governor was sorrowful, for he deemed the thing impossible on account of the stench which arose from the caverns. But Djédjiyé and certain of his friends exerted themselves strenuously in the matter, so that in a short time the caverns were made clean and the pestilence abated. And all the people rejoiced exceedingly and praised Djédjiyé for his zeal and activity, and certain of them made a petition to the Governor that he would bestow a reward on Djédjiyé, and Ibn Rabin said, "I will do what ye ask." Then he took a pen and wrote a letter to the Queen in these words:—

"Ibn Rabin the Governor to the Queen of Queens.—A great pestilence hath lately arisen in the Island of China and many of the people died thereof. And I charged certain persons and Djédjiyé the scribe to make clean the caverns of the Djinn, and when they were made clean the pestilence abated. The persons whom I commanded to carry out the work have laboured faithfully and Djédjiyé the scribe hath laboured faithfully in his office as a scribe. I humbly pray thee to bestow a reward upon them and upon Djédjiyé the scribe."

When Ibn Rabin had written this letter he sealed it with his seal and gave it to a messenger and the messenger carried it to the Queen. And when the Queen had read the letter she called the Wezeer and showed it to him and said, "O Wezeer, what reward shall be given to these persons and to Djédjiyé the scribe?" And the Wezeer answered, "O Queen of the world, my counsel is this. Let these other persons be advanced in rank and dignity. But as for Djédjiyé the scribe, he is a man exceedingly contentious and a disturber of the peace and many times he hath withstood the Governor Ibn Rabin and hath caused the people to murmur. Moreover the letter of the Governor sheweth that he hath not laboured in this matter like these other persons, but only in his office as a scribe. My counsel in regard to this Djédjiyé is that thou command the chief of the artificers to fashion an inkhorn of silver and that thou send the inkhorn to the Governor and bid him give the inkhorn to Djédjiyé and address him with smooth words. If he shall accept the inkhorn the people will no more honour him; but if he shall refuse the inkhorn then he will seem to be puffed up with pride and all men will mock at him." And the Queen said "So be it." But the Wezeer spoke in this wise because he was a friend of Ibn Rabin the Governor and knew of the enmity which was between him and Djédjiyé. So the messenger returned to the Governor and brought to him the inkhorn and a letter from the Queen commanding him to give the inkhorn to Djédjiyé and to address him with smooth words. Then the Governor took a pen and wrote a letter to Djédjiyé:—

"Ibn Rabin the Governor to Djédjiyé.—The messenger who conveys this letter will deliver to thee an inkhorn as the reward of thy services. Thou hast had thanks enough already."

And Ibn Rabin sent the letter and the inkhorn to Djédjiyé. And when Djédjiyé had read the letter he said, "Woe upon thee, O Ibn Rabin!" Then he took a pen and wrote a letter to the Governor in the following words:—

"Djédjiyé to the Governor Ibn Rabin.—I am not a scribe that I should be rewarded with an inkhorn. The other persons who laboured with me have been advanced in rank and dignity, and it is meet that I should receive the like or greater reward inasmuch as my labour was greater. Thou knowest this and yet thou hast concealed it from the Queen. All men shall know what thou hast done."

When Djédjiyé had finished the letter he sent the letter and the inkhorn to the Governor and he made known to all the people the thing which had happened. And the people praised Djédjiyé, but in regard to Ibn Rabin the Governor they were silent. For they feared the Governor.

The *China Gazette* says:—Chang Chih-tung and his fellow conspirators in the mandarinates who have started the Formosan "rebellion" and furnished the sinews of war for the founding of the bogus republic are apparently afraid of the results of their shameful machinations and have thought better of despatching the steamer *Arthur* to the island with further supplies for Governor President Tang. She is now discharging her cargo into the Kiangnan Arsenal godowns.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Friday afternoon. The Hon. F. A. Cooper (Director of Public Works) presided, and there were also present—Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart (Colonial Secretary and Registrar-General), Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings (Acting Captain Superintendent of Police), Surgeon-Major Westcott (Acting Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The SECRETARY read the minutes of the previous meeting, and they were confirmed.

THE ALTERATIONS AT THE CENTRAL MARKET.

The PRESIDENT informed the Board that the question, which was raised at the last meeting, respecting certain alterations and additions to the Central Market had been considered. The principal alteration is the construction of a packing room and cook-house. He laid upon the table the plans, and moved their adoption.

The ACTING CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE seconded.

Carried.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

The PRESIDENT said that no doubt members were aware that an Ordinance had been passed conferring certain powers on the Board to appoint standing committees. A copy of the Ordinance had only just been received but it was very important that some of the Committees should be formed at once. He therefore moved that a committee dealing with matters relating to house to house visitation of basements be appointed and that it consist of the Acting Captain Superintendent of Police and the Assistant Secretary.

The ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH seconded.

Carried.

The ACTING CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT of Police moved that a committee consisting of the President and the Colonial Surgeon be appointed to deal with matters connected with the markets, cattle depots, and slaughter-houses.

The resolution was seconded by the ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH and carried.

THE SALE OF EGGS.

The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon submitted a report calling attention to the Ordinance referring to the sale of articles of food elsewhere than in the public markets. He expressed the opinion that eggs were amongst the prohibited articles.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by the ACTING CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, it was resolved not to take any steps to prevent the sale of eggs outside the markets.

UNHEALTHY WELLS.

Certain unhealthy wells in the colony were, on the motion of the ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, ordered to be closed.

THE CONDITION OF LATRINES.

The Assistant Surveyor, Mr. E. A. Ram, presented a long report on the condition of the latrines which are open to the public in Victoria. He said that in a very great majority of cases the latrines are situated in highly congested neighbourhoods, and are surrounded by domestic buildings, sometimes upon all, and generally upon at least two sides. With the exception of a few public free latrines which have been erected by the Government, there is not a single latrine in the city which fulfils the most elementary requirements of sanitation in regard to site and construction. In nearly every instance the provision for light and air is inadequate, and in a good many cases this is almost inevitable from the nature of the site or the character of the buildings. The general impression left upon his mind, after a careful inspection, confirms the opinion formed as the result of previous experience—that the latrine accommodation of the city of Victoria is in an extremely unsatisfactory condition. Mr. Ram concludes his report with suggested improvements.

The following minutes were attached:—

The Acting Medical Officer of Health—I have inspected all these latrines and am of opinion that they are almost all insanitary in some respect, and I consider it an urgent necessity that the privately owned ones should be abolished, and that the colony should be supplied with a system of latrines constructed and maintained by Government.

The Acting Colonial Surgeon—Undoubtedly something should be done to remedy this state of affairs. I recommend that the Government be requested to

sanction the immediate erection of Government latrines in place of some of the worst of the existing privately owned ones. Any medical man would have no hesitation in declaring these (certain latrines he names) a nuisance, only, as Mr. Ram says, it is no use closing them until others are erected to take their place. Personally I think water troughs, such as those at present in use at the gaol, would be preferable. If there is any objection to their being connected with the main sewers they might be led to empty into a large water tight cess pit, not far from the latrine, which could be emptied once or twice in the twenty-four hours. I agree with your recommendations that this valuable report be sent to the Government.

The President agreed that the majority of the buildings were not suitable. The Board appeared to have little or no power to compel the owners to carry out the improvements suggested.

The PRESIDENT said the Board could not do very much more in connection with the subject until the Government constructed latrines and dealt with those privately owned. He proposed that the report be transmitted to the Colonial Secretary, and that his attention be called to the minutes.

The ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH seconded.

Carried.

DRAINAGE WORKS.

Mr. J. R. Crook, Sanitary Surveyor, wrote a letter having reference to contractors undertaking to carry out drainage works, and also recommending that the Board should undertake such work if requested by owners of property to do so.

The President, in a minute, was of opinion that steps should be taken to revise the list of contractors approved by the Board. In view of the importance of giving effect to the decisions of the Board with regard to the drainage of premises at as early a date as possible it would be well for the Board to consider the advisability of representing to the Government the desirability of some arrangement being made under which the Government will undertake to do this work.

The PRESIDENT moved that the report be forwarded to the Colonial Secretary, with the request that the attention of his Excellency the Governor be called to the importance, in the opinion of the Board, of the Government making some arrangements to carry out drainage works on private premises.

The ACTING CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE seconded.

Carried.

NIGHT WATCHMEN AT THE CENTRAL MARKET.

Mr. Ladds, Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, wrote recommending the appointment of night watchmen at the Central Market.

The PRESIDENT remarked that most members of the Board were of opinion that it was most undesirable, besides being contrary to the law of the colony, for persons to sleep in the markets. There was some reason, perhaps, for their doing so, as unfortunately when the question of arranging the staff was considered, the subject of watchmen for securing the safe custody of the goods during the night was not called attention to. He therefore moved that a letter be addressed to the Colonial Secretary requesting the Governor to appoint two night watchmen at a salary not exceeding \$25 a month.

The ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH seconded.

Carried.

APPLICATIONS FOR CHAIR ALLOWANCES.

Six Inspectors of Nuisances applied for an allowance of \$12 per month for the five summer months for chair and ricksha hire. They pointed out that in order to keep their districts in proper order their duty must be done in the heat of the day, and that four Inspectors were already allowed this sum.

The overseer of drainage works applied for a similar allowance.

The Acting Medical Officer of Health and the Acting Captain Superintendent of Police wrote minutes expressing themselves in favour of an allowance of \$7 a month in each case. The Acting Colonial Surgeon was in favour only of actual expenditure being allowed.

It was resolved to grant the applicants an allowance of \$7 a month.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The death rate for the week ended 25th May was 18.7 per 1,000 per annum, as compared with 74.9 in the corresponding week last year. For the week ended 1st June the death rate was 18.1 per 1,000 per annum, as compared with 96.1 last year. In the first week there was one death from

typhoid fever, and in the latter week one case of small pox was reported.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board adjourned until next Thursday week.

THE SANITARY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT FOR 1894.

The following are extracts from the Sanitary Superintendent's report for 1894, laid before the Legislative Council yesterday:—

DRAINAGE WORKS.

In addition to the work carried out by property owners of their own initiative a considerable number of houses, which were found on inspection to be in an insanitary condition, have been redrained at the request of the Board.

It is satisfactory to note that steady progress is being made in the re-drainage of Victoria. When the general inspection of all the house drains in the city, which began in December, is completed, and if the owners of such houses as are defectively drained are compelled to execute the work of re-draining their insanitary properties within a reasonable time, a much needed improvement in the sanitary condition of the town will be the result.

A considerable number of complaints regarding the choking of the new pipe drains continue to come in. In almost every instance the choking of the drain is caused by its misuse through gross carelessness on the part of servants. Very frequently the gratings over the inlets to the waste pipes and drains are either removed or so destroyed as to be of very little use in keeping solids of any size out of the drains. I am quite satisfied that in a number of cases the choking of the drains is done maliciously, either out of spite to the landlord or to the Board. To some Chinese minds such malicious action seems to give infinite pleasure, while from their point of view it goes a long way to prove their silly contention that a water-tight house drain is not suited to their manner of living. With the old form of blue brick drain such blockage simply converted the drain into an elongated porous cess-pool, from which the sewage soaked into the surrounding ground on which the dwelling stood. The evil results to the public health, which are almost certain to arise from such sewage polluted foundations, are well known and require no comment.

A few householders actually carefully seal the fresh air inlet to the house drains by fitting a piece of white iron under the gratings. However, when the Inspectors point out the folly of such action and explain the object of the inlet, in most cases the tin-plate is removed and is not again put on.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The death-rates recorded are, I feel sure, less reliable than usual, simply on account of the large number of people who left the colony temporarily during the prevalence of the disease designated Bubonic Plague. However, the figures given are the only ones available for statistical work of this kind, and I am of the opinion that the population of the colony on the 31st December was pretty much the same as if we had never been afflicted with Bubonic Plague.

It is worth noting that in 1886 the total number of deaths recorded in the colony was 5,100 amongst an estimated population of 181,700 or, in round figures, the death rate for that year was 28 per 1,000, while in the exceptional year under review the total number of deaths recorded amounted to 7,362 amongst an estimated population of 242,400, or a death-rate of 30.3 per 1,000.

With regard to death registration the remarks I made in my report for the year 1890 are applicable to the present time, for nothing has been done—I refer to appointment of native medical practitioners trained to some extent in Western medicine—beyond a medical inspection of the patients in the Tung Wa Hospital to ensure that the recorded cause of death is the real cause from which death occurred.

The feature of paramount interest in these statistics is the large number of deaths recorded as caused by Bubonic Plague. As I was absent from the colony during the prevalence of this disease it is not, in my opinion, expedient that I should do more than briefly refer to one or two points that seem to me will be of some value to members of the Board. The disease appears, in at least one respect, to resemble typhus fever in so much as the great majority of its victims were

observed to be amongst a poverty-stricken people who were poorly fed, badly housed, and who lived in overcrowded houses and overcrowded areas. The localities in Victoria where the disease was most prevalent were mainly occupied by people to which the foregoing description is fairly applicable.

In 1887 when the Public Health Bill was under the consideration of the Legislature it was my duty to represent the conditions under which the mass of the people in the colony lived. These representations were sharply called in question, and the Officer Administering the Government—Sir William Gordon Cameron—thought it desirable to personally investigate the matter. This he did in a very thorough manner by a careful inspection of the worst dwellings in the Chiung Wan, Tai-ping-shan, and Sai-ying-poon districts of the city, and his subsequent speeches in Council show very clearly what his opinions were. Had the Public Health Bill of 1887 been passed in the form in which it was transmitted to the Colonial Secretary by the Sanitary Board, and had the sanitary staff received reasonable support in enforcing its provisions, I am satisfied that the heavy mortality from Bubonic Plague in 1894 would not have occurred. The most powerful opponents of the Bill belonged to those classes who have suffered most, financially, from the serious outbreak of Bubonic Plague, and I must confess I consider their action in 1887 has met in 1894 with the result it deserved.

I again consider it desirable to repeat the remark that in considering these statistics it is necessary to keep in view the circumstance that our population is not a normal one, but a population in which the male sex in the prime of life largely predominates.

LAUNDRIES.

Only three of the ten public laundries have been let during the year, although the rental is as low as \$10 a month. That there is a strong artificial opposition to the using of these buildings by the public washermen is to me clear enough, but beyond the natural obstinacy of Chinese workmen I know of no reason for the opposition. It is quite true that these public washermen receive the tacit support of many of their employers in their obstinate opposition. It is difficult to understand why the vast majority of our leading residents of all nationalities should prefer to have their linen washed in an evil-smelling puddle on the hill-side and dressed in the living room of their washermen's servants, who live amongst and sleep upon their clients' linen, rather than in the public laundries. However, so long as such a very peculiar preference exists it is very doubtful if much can be done to improve this branch of the sanitation of the colony.

BAKERIES.

The bye-laws regulating bake-houses are being steadily and persistently enforced.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

2,552 deaths were recorded from bubonic plague and 25 from small-pox and choleraic complaints.

STAFF.

Owing to prolonged ill-health the Superintendent was absent on leave from 1st January to 31st October, during which period the duties of the office were efficiently performed by Mr. E. A. Ram. None of the Sanitary Inspectors had any leave of absence during the year, but two of them were ill and in hospital for several weeks.

A large increase to the staff of Inspectors was sanctioned towards the close of the year, and the new men were appointed, but they did not take up their appointments in 1894. The staff of Inspectors is now, so far as the number to the total population is concerned, equal to that employed in those large towns in England where municipal sanitary administration is viewed as being most advanced. In England it is now almost the invariable rule that before a man receives an appointment as Sanitary Inspector he must have passed the examinations of the Sanitary Institute. In Hongkong men with such a training are not to be had, and I have very grave doubts if it would be a wise proceeding to get such trained men from home as vacancies occur, inasmuch as their utter want of knowledge of the Chinese people and their habits and customs would, to my mind, more than counterbalance their superior training in sanitary matters.

THE BOTANIC GARDENS IN 1894.

The following are extracts from the report of the Superintendent of the Botanical and Afforestation Department for 1894.—

GENERAL.

The year under review was distinguished by a series of adverse events which imposed an almost continuous strain on the resources of the department to contend with the difficulties which arose in maintaining with as little injury as possible the various charges with which it is entrusted; but, in spite of all the strenuous efforts which were exerted, and which were successful to a great extent, considerable damages were sustained both in the gardens and plantations of the colony. The events to which I allude were—(i.) drought in the early part of the year, (ii.) the plague of caterpillars in May and June, and (iii.) a series of typhoons in September and October.

The suppression of the caterpillar plague occupied the almost undivided attention of the whole staff—except the Gardens' men, and many of these were also employed—for a period of two months, so that ordinary work had to be almost suspended during that time. For part of the time an additional clerk was lent from the Colonial Secretary's Office to assist in keeping accounts connected with the destruction of caterpillars.

Five typhoons visited the colony within 28 days in September and October; they occurred on September 10th, 18th, 24th, and 29th, and October 6th, respectively.

DROUGHT.

During the first three months of the year only 2.46 inches of rain fell in the Gardens, and from April 1st to May 6th there were only 3.03 inches. The usual water supply to the Gardens was so suddenly diminished, and to such an extent, that plants in pots were exposed to great danger of being lost, and they were only saved by prompt arrangements which I made for obtaining water by carrying it from two trickling streams, which were temporarily dammed, outside the Gardens. An additional small supply was obtained by re-opening a well within the Gardens which had been closed for many years. The scanty supply procured was only enough for the plants which were in greatest need. A more ample supply in dry seasons is much needed for both plants and lawns. The only lawns which can be irrigated, even when water is turned on continually, are those surrounding the flower beds; all the grass turf in the parts becomes as brown as hay throughout the dry season.

TYPHOONS.

On the approach of all typhoons extensive and troublesome preparations are always made to secure plants and property against damages as far as possible; the preparations for the 1894 typhoons were in all cases effectual so far as they went, but the October typhoon was of such violence as to place many things out of the bounds of practicable protection, and very great destruction and damage to large trees and shrubs inevitably occurred. Immunity from destructive storms for many years past had allowed the general effect of the Gardens to reach a state of great beauty, which, however, the last storm wrecked in a cruel manner, and it will be many years, under the most favourable circumstances, before the Gardens can recover the beauty which was so greatly marred.

The clearing away of debris and preparations for replanting, &c., occupied all available time up to the end of 1894 and well into the present year.

GLASS HOUSES.

During a portion of the cold season the temperature falls so low that many tender plants which have to be kept or housed during the coldest weather in glass houses suffer from cold. This has been remedied to a slight extent by the use of kerosine stoves, which, however, besides being troublesome and giving off an offensive smell, afford insufficient heat, and I fear that fumes proceeding from the stoves are injurious to plant life. I had funnels, with tubes attached, placed over the stoves, and the tubes carried through the roofs of the houses, and so arranged that injurious fumes were carried off without their coming into contact with the plants, but also that the heat was retained almost completely within the houses. The heat obtainable by this means is, however, insufficient. All the glass houses should now be provided

with hot-water apparatus, which could be heated from one modern improved boiler. The apparatus could be provided at a very moderate cost and the consumption of fuel would be very small for the short time during which artificial heat is essential.

ORCHIDS.

A very fair amount of success has been achieved in the cultivation of orchids. This success is sufficiently proved to encourage the continuation of efforts to cultivate and extend the collections. Some orchids can be grown well in open shaded houses, but many of them at certain periods would be better in glass houses, while another class of orchids—those from hotter regions—should be always under glass. Glass houses are not only needed to provide a higher temperature for part of the year, but also to protect the plants from storms of wind and rain. A suitable glass house could be erected in the nursery at a small cost, and it could be heated from the same boiler which I have alluded to above in my proposition for heating the other houses.

LAWN CATERPILLAR (THIALLETA SIGNIFERA, WALK.)

This caterpillar has given the usual trouble to circumvent its action in the destruction of lawns. It seems impossible to stamp it out, but the remedy—Jeyes' fluid, diluted—previously reported, is the best thing yet discovered to keep it in check.

The Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station last year published an elaborate bulletin by Mr. E. P. Felt on "Grass-Eating Insects" of the genus *Crambus*, but amongst the remedies there given there is nothing which is as effective for the *Thialleta* as that which has been adopted here.

EXCHANGE OF LAND.

When the new Gardens were being formed in 1871 an old open nullah was built over and covered with soil. It was afterwards discovered that this nullah was a boundary of the "Glencaly" property, and that by the filling up of the nullah and laying out of the new land as a portion of the Gardens an encroachment had been made by the Government on the "Glencaly" property. This property subsequently changed hands and the new Roman Catholic Cathedral was then built on it. Last year the Cathedral authorities required an extension of land and proposed that it should be given them in exchange for the 1871 encroachment, to which the Government acceded. This arrangement readjusts the boundary line of the Gardens to the mutual satisfaction of both parties and gives a well-defined line.

PLANT SALES.

In 1893 the receipts for plants sold were abnormally large and in 1894 they did not reach the same high figure. The receipts amounted to \$501.75 for 2,338 plants which were sold. The orders received were 326, about half the number being cash transactions. It will be remembered that the Government make no profit on these sales, which are for the benefit of the purchasers only.

It seems incomprehensible why many purchasers will not apply usual business habits when sending orders for plants, paying accounts, &c.; but, on the contrary, will so frequently send communications addressed to me personally, the result being, in case of my absence, which is naturally frequent, that inconvenience and unnecessary work is given to themselves and us, as that portion of the staff whose duty it is to attend to sales are unable to open covers addressed to me personally, instead of their being as they should be so addressed that any one in the office can open them and attend at once to the business.

LOAN OF PLANTS FOR DECORATION.

The loan of plants is almost confined to the winter months. At the commencement of the last season a new regulation came into force which required payment being made for the use of the plants. This, no doubt, operated in causing a diminution of the quantity of plants applied for, although the charge made is only 5 cents per plant, calculated to just cover the cost of growing them. The number of plants lent was 3,210, being 877 less than in the previous year; of the 3,210 lent, 2,276 were lent before the new regulation in regard to payment came into force. \$47.40 was received for plants lent on hire.

HERBARIUM AND LIBRARY.

The unusual circumstances which I referred to and my absence on vacation leave left but

very little time for herbarium work beyond preserving the contents of the herbarium in good condition.

The Director of the Royal Gardens, Kew, presented a collection of about 200 dried specimens of plants, chiefly Chinese.

Dr. Augustine Henry also sent collections amounting to 767 specimens which he had collected in South Formosa during his residence there.

Specimens were also received from Dr. George King, F.R.S., &c., Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Calcutta; and from the Rev. Father Bodinier, of Hongkong plants, many of which were found last year by Father Bodinier for the first time in Hongkong.

Father Bodinier has in his botanical researches made constant use of the herbarium and library throughout the year, and he has expressed his high appreciation of their usefulness to him in his studies.

PLAN OF GARDENS.

I am pleased to say that the Honourable the Director of Public Works has kindly undertaken to provide a plan of the Gardens. When it is complete I purpose producing a Guide to the Gardens, which should be of use to visitors.

AFFORESTATION IN 1894.

The Superintendent of the Botanical and Afforestation Department, in his report for 1894, says:—

Ordinary work was accomplished in spite of, and in addition to, the very large amount of work which was thrown on the department by the plague of caterpillars at the beginning of summer and the typhoons at its end, but during the periods of those calamitous events regular operations were temporarily suspended.

PLANTING.

The number of trees planted was smaller than in most previous years; this is accounted for chiefly by the gradual reduction of expenses which has been introduced now that available and suitable planting lands have been to a great extent filled up, and by the contractor having failed to produce the stipulated quantity of trees, in consequence of losses in the nurseries which were sustained owing to much of the land having been flooded by storm water.

In the contract for rearing trees for planting in 1893 I had provided for a large number of *Cunninghamia sinensis* in place of a corresponding value of the ordinary pine. The contractor succeeded in supplying 20,000 good trees of this kind, and they were planted and have done well so far. I purpose, as far as possible, to substitute this tree for the common pine in all future work.

Upwards of 1,000 trees of *Liquidamber formosana* were also planted, and they made excellent progress. I intended to use this tree more extensively, but there is some difficulty in obtaining sufficient seeds; for those which have been obtained I am indebted to Mr. F. S. A. Bourne, H.M. Vice-Consul at Canton. A further supply of seeds was obtained in December, but unfortunately very few matured on the trees last year; consequently, instead of the large number of trees which I expected to have, very few were obtained for planting in 1895.

Special attention was also given to *Bischofia javanica*, an indigenous tree, about 600 having been planted.

The timber of *Liquidamber* is valuable for making tea-chests, as no odour is given off which would taint the tea. The wood of *Bischofia* is in request by local boat-builders, being valuable for junks' and boats' knees. Whether marketable timber can be produced in Hongkong in any quantity requires time to prove. In favoured situations, however, it is certain that good timber can be grown. One tree which was blown down by a typhoon sold for \$5 where it laid.

The required supply of *Cunninghamia* seed failed last year, the reason which the contractor alleged for the failure being that the typhoons had destroyed the cones before the seeds were ripe. As the seeds have hitherto been obtained from distant parts of the Kwangtung province I had no means of verifying his statement.

FLOWERING OF BAMBOOS.

One species of bamboo (*Bambusa Tulda*, Roxb.) flowered more profusely and generally in Hongkong and Kowloon than in any previous year of my experience. It seeded, also, sparingly

in some cases, but in most instances few or no seeds were ripened.

DESTRUCTION OF TREE-FERNS.

During the early period when the bubonic plague was prevalent the plants on the hills of a native tree-fern (*Brainea insignis*, Hook.) were exposed to the risk of extermination by coolies who daily went to the hills to obtain supplies of the stems for medicine for the use of plague patients. I was informed that a decoction of the stems was made and used as a cooling beverage.

THINNING OF PLANTATIONS, &c., AND SALE OF FORESTRY PRODUCTS.

The thinning of plantations has kept pace with the requirements of the standing trees. The number of trees removed was 31,415 as against 31,643 of the previous year. Of this number there were over a few hundreds of large old trees which were blown down by the October typhoon.

The revenue from forestry products was \$770.22, an increase of nearly \$200 on that of the year 1893.

PROTECTIVE SERVICE.

By the agency of the Forest Guards, 106 cases of offences in the nature of damages to or destruction of trees were dealt with by the Magistrate; 94 convictions were obtained. Fines amounting to \$145 were paid by 36 convicted persons. The highest fine was \$25 and the lowest \$1.

The number of trees surreptitiously cut down, of which it has been possible to obtain records, was 608, not a large number when it is compared with the quantity of trees under conservation, but it is a slight increase over those of the previous year.

JUNGLE FIRES.

The fires were only 36, not much over half the number of those in 1893, but the damages which resulted from were six times as great as in that year.

The neighbourhood of Aberdeen was distinguished by the greatest number and destructiveness of fires, two only of which were responsible for the destruction of 21,000 trees.

Tytam Tuk was the next locality on the list of destructive fires; four occurred in one day; they were caused by shells (P) fired from field-guns by the Volunteers while they were practising on January 3rd. About 3,000 well-grown trees were destroyed by these fires in what was one of the prettiest pieces of woodland scenery in the island. It will be many years, unfortunately, before the places can be restored to their former beauty. Similar practice should never be repeated during the dry season in any locality where there will be any danger of conflagrations.

The spring and autumn Chinese ancestral worship at tombs was well guarded as usual by a large body of men being posted all over the island to subdue any fires which might arise, and in consequence of these precautions but little damage was done.

The posting of notices cautioning worshippers to be careful in the use of fire has had a very good effect in educating the people, who seem willing to exercise care as requested.

The total number of trees destroyed by fire was 28,886.

TYPHOONS.

The trees of the colony since the September typhoon of 1874 have never suffered so severely as they did from the typhoon in October of 1894.

On the morning of October 7th many of the streets and roads were blocked by fallen trees of small and large dimensions. Trees which had withstood the storms of 44 years were prostrated. No less than 76 trees were thus destroyed. The forestry staff, assisted by a large number of coolies, was distributed and set to work to clear the roads sufficiently for traffic, and before night no road was left entirely blocked. The entire removal of the fallen trees occupied several weeks.

For the work of clearing streets and roads. I was fortunately able to obtain at once, by special arrangement, the services of 40 trained woodcutters from the contractor who had the annual contract for thinning plantations.

The trees on the hills east and west of the Happy Valley suffered very severely when the wind swept down from the gap to the south of Wongneichung village. Pine trees of all sizes up to 43 years old and 6 feet in circumference of stem were strewn over the ground in all directions, especially on the eastern hill, but most of the largest ones came down in consequence of

having had their large roots cut when excavations were made to obtain soil for filling in the ground within the racecourse a few years ago. The loss of these fine trees is very regrettable, especially as the loss might have been avoided if soil had been obtained from some place, which was possible, where no trees of such value need have been sacrificed.

Branches of *Araucaria Cunninghamii* were found at the Kowloon Docks, and as there are no trees at Kowloon from which these could have been deposited at the docks there is circumstantial proof that they were wrenched off large trees which were destroyed by the typhoon at East Point and carried by the wind, when the full force of the typhoon was blowing, across the harbour, a distance of just 2 miles.

Young pine trees on the hills all over the island, on Aplichan island and in Kowloon were bent over when the soil was saturated with the storm rain, and they were unable to recover their upright positions when the storm had passed. As soon as the clearing of the roads was completed a large staff of men was employed up to December 27th in placing and securing these trees in an upright position again. About 200,000 trees were thus set up at a cost of less on \$3,000 for wages. Trees which had been planted upwards of six years suffered very little except in some places where the force of the wind was concentrated, as in gaps between two hills and on exposed breasts of hills, in which places leaves were almost destroyed.

This was the first really serious typhoon, which had visited the colony since the afforestation of the island had commenced. It was predicted by some that violent storms would undo all our work in re-clothing the hills. The result of the trial which the trees went through in 1894 is sufficiently convincing that the theory which was entertained by those people was unsound. Some damage is inevitable, here as in all countries, from the effects of storms, and must always be allowed for.

THE CATERPILLAR PLAGUE OF 1894.

The Superintendent of the Botanical and Afforestation Department, in his annual report writes as follows concerning the plague of caterpillars (*Eutricha punctata*, Walk.) which visited the colony last year:—

A report on this plague has already been furnished to the Government by my Assistant, Mr. Tatcher. It is therefore necessary now only to supplement that report, which was called for by His Excellency the Governor, during my absence from the colony, shortly before the measures which I organized for the extirpation of the pest had been successfully terminated.

In the beginning of March I observed the caterpillar of this moth on trees at North Point, but it existed only in very small numbers on a few trees. I kept it under very careful observation and found towards the end of April that it had appeared in many other localities, but there did not then seem any reason to suppose that it was necessary to adopt more special means for its destruction than in the previous two years. However, in May its extremely rapid increase in numbers and in size demonstrated an unusual visitation, and on May 15th I reported to the Government its presence and advised that immediate steps should be taken to destroy it. My recommendations met with His Excellency the Governor's approval, and I was at once provided with all the means and assistance which I had represented was necessary to carry out the work, and a careful organization was quickly completed.

The work to be accomplished was so extensive that it was necessary to secure auxiliary aid. This, fortunately, existed at the various police stations throughout the island and Kowloon, and this assistance was, on application, placed at once at my disposal, with the sanction of the Government, by Mr. May, Captain Superintendent of Police.

The first steps taken were to employ a portion of the permanent staff of the department to collect caterpillars, in order to ascertain what would be a fair price to offer for them and then to communicate the information to the labouring classes in the town and villages that all who were inclined for the work would be employed to collect caterpillars.

Instructions were sent to the officers in charge of certain police stations to receive and pay for,

by weight, all caterpillars which might be brought in; at the same time printed notices in Chinese offering payment for caterpillars were posted all over the colony. Funds for disbursement on account of the work were advanced to the West Point, Pokfulam, Aberdeen, Shaokwan, and No. 2 Police Stations in Hongkong, and to those of Yau-mati and Hung-hom in Kowloon.

Operations commenced on May 24th, and on the 25th all the receiving stations were actively employed. In a short time there seemed no limit to the number of workers who could be obtained, whole families going to the hills to collect. At the busiest time there were probably over 1,000 people employed, and so great was the quantity of caterpillars brought in that the work of weighing them and paying away money, which was done daily, became a very severe task, occupying the greater portions of the afternoons. As the caterpillars increased in size, and therefore became easier to collect, the price offered was gradually reduced, and it was in like manner increased again in proportion to the work of collecting as the caterpillars became scarcer.

About the 12th of June nearly all the caterpillars had been collected, and as cocoons were forming the work of collecting them was then commenced and it was practically completed by the middle of July.

Communications were maintained daily by telephone or writing between the Gardens and the police stations, instructions being issued as required, and reports being sent in daily from the police stations, so that the Superintendent was in constant touch with all the work which was going on. In addition, the Superintendent made visits of inspection as frequently as his absence from head quarters could be spared. The head forester and one clerk were employed almost daily for two months in conveying supplies of money to the stations, 95 advances having been made in this manner.

The Government was kept constantly informed of the progress of the work.

Mr. Tatcher rendered efficient and willing service in assisting to carry out the arrangements which were planned for the extirpation of the plague, and in supervising the completion of the work which remained to be done (chiefly the collection of cocoons) at the time when the Superintendent was satisfied that the work was so nearly complete that he could go on vacation leave, which he had postponed while his presence was required to conduct the work.

Statistics of the work were carefully kept, and these enabled Mr. Tatcher, together with useful observations which he had made when inspecting plantations, to draw up the report which he submitted on the 10th of July.

This year the caterpillar re-appeared in April, but not in greater numbers than half a dozen coolies, who are still daily employed, have been able to destroy as fast as discovered. In the discovery of caterpillars the forest guards are employed to inspect trees, and to report daily, while they are engaged in their ordinary work.

The caterpillars were in myriads on nearly all the pine trees of the colony, but they were much more numerous in certain places. These were Aberdeen New Road, Deep Water Bay, Causeway Bay, Quarry Bay, and Mt. Parker in Hongkong, and near Yau-mati in Kowloon. The trees in those places were almost entirely denuded of their leaves. Many trees, which had been thus denuded and which were growing on unusually barren and dry soil, eventually died, but other trees made new, but weak, growth when the rains arrived; now, all are making new shoots of increased vigour, which promise complete recovery from the attack.

After the work of collecting had been in operation some time and the trees were getting cleared, I took the precaution of posting men along the boundary which divides British Kowloon from Chinese territory in order to intercept people who might be tempted to bring in caterpillars from China for payment at our stations. This was found to be a necessary precaution, as, in a few days, what was expected took place, and many people were turned back who were in possession of loads of caterpillars.

The exact quantity of caterpillars collected was 60,579 catties (36 tons 1 cwt. 0 qr. 20 lbs.) and of cocoons 5,617 catties (3 tons 6 cwt. 3 qrs. 13 lbs.) and the total cost of the work, exclusive of wages of members of the permanent staff who were employed, was \$4,889.95.

I again express my appreciation of the value of the services of those police officers who gave such willing assistance, which was at a time when several of them were also engaged in special work in connection with the bubonic plague. The names of those police officers I had the honour to submit to the Government in letter No. 43 of the 10th September, 1894, when I specially brought their services to the notice of the Government.

Although there is no known record of such devastation committed elsewhere by the caterpillar which infested this colony last year, it will be interesting to state here that terrible injury to trees has been wrought in other countries by other species, notably the Gipsy Moth in the United States, where in Massachusetts, I am informed, \$350,000 have been spent in attempts to exterminate it.

The Kew Bulletin for 1890 also contained an account of a Forest Plague in Bavaria. The following extracts will be of interest. The documents in which they were contained were a despatch and enclosures from Mr. Victor Drummond, at Munich, to the Foreign Office, which were sent by the Foreign Office to Kew Gardens.

The experience gained in Europe and related above is useful as indicating the habits and peculiarities of tree-eating caterpillars, and what the prospects may possibly be of the re-invasion in Hongkong of the caterpillar with which we have had so unfortunate an experience. There is one comfort here which was denied those on the European continent, viz., that our caterpillar does not seem to have the capacity to live on any other tree or plant except the common pine, so that all other things have been quite exempt from attack. The moth of our caterpillar, on the other hand, is not attracted by light, which I proved last May when experimenting with a view of ascertaining the best practicable methods of destroying the caterpillar.

STORM WARNINGS.

The Director of the Observatory in his report for 1894 says:—

In my last annual report I was able to state that "precedence urgency" had been granted by the Eastern Extension and Great Northern Telegraph Companies and also by the Chinese Telegraph Administration to our messages. I regret, however, to be unable to report any improvement in the time of receipt of these, and so far as the United Telegraph Companies are concerned the delay would thus appear to be beyond their control. With regard to the messages coming over the lines of the Chinese Telegraph Administration the case is, however, different, as it is clearly established that the messages are handled in at their offices immediately, and therefore it is certain that the delay occurs in transmission over their lines. But as the messages received through this channel pass over land lines communication will, of course, be more frequently interrupted. The tardy receipt or non-arrival of the observations interferes greatly with the prompt issue of weather intelligence, and the early or late issue of such must necessarily depend upon the time of receipt of the observations from the coast stations. With regard to the observations made at Anping (South Formosa) and Hoihow (Hainan), the messages are so seldom received in time that for the purpose of storm-warnings they are as a rule practically useless, and as both these stations are outposts, as regards local warnings, so to speak, the one to the east and the other to the west of the colony, it is readily seen that the non receipt of these observations is a very great loss. Last typhoon season the Hoihow observations would have been particularly valuable had they been received, as many of the typhoons approached the immediate neighbourhood of that station, and there is no doubt that were the Hoihow observations received in time, the information the Observatory is able to give with regard to typhoons in the China Sea would be much improved. Unfortunately the irregularities and delay in the receipt of the messages are more frequent in the typhoon season than in the winter months, and this remark applies to all stations, Bolinao excepted. The thanks of the Government are due to the Telegraph Companies for their kindness in continuing to forward the meteorological telegrams free of charge, and the staff of the Eastern Ex-

tension Telegraph Company at Bolinao is to be especially thanked for their kind aid in making observations at all times, but particularly during the typhoon season. During the past year their help has been invaluable in this respect, and their observations during the passage of typhoon centres in the vicinity of the station enabled Mr. Figg to indicate the subsequent movements of such typhoons in the China Sea with accuracy. The staff of the same Company at Sharp Peak, near Foochow, also rendered valuable assistance on two or three occasions, and it would be a great improvement could the Telegraph Company be prevailed upon to allow the staff to forward observations regularly. No observations have been received from Foochow since the 10th September last, when the port was closed on account of the China-Japan war.

In my last annual report I stated that Victoria Peak and Gap Rock would shortly be placed in direct communication with the Observatory. This improvement has not yet been effected, and the wind observations made at Victoria Peak are often received too late for insertion in the China Coast Register, and latterly no observations have been received until about 2.30 p.m. and frequently later than this each day. This apparently arises to a great extent from the roundabout method by which the observations are forwarded to the United Telegraph offices in Queen's Road for transmission to the Observatory. The importance of the wind observations from Victoria Peak has frequently been insisted on by me, but their value is at once discounted through the delay in transmission.

THE COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON'S REPORT FOR 1894.

The following are extracts from the annual report off the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, laid before the Legislative Council on Thursday last:—

The total number of animals slaughtered in the colony during the year shows a small decrease on the figures of the previous year, this being due in a great measure, in the case of the cattle and sheep, to the absence of the fleet during the greater part of the year; and in that of the swine to the exodus of Chinese from the colony owing to the panic caused amongst them by the plague outbreak.

This would, however, appear to have been of but short duration, the deficiency extending over the two months of June and July alone.

The total number slaughtered were as follows:—

	Cattle.	Sheep and Goats.	Swine
1893.....	17,866	11,770	131,293
1894.....	16,898	10,937	125,725

Two serious outbreaks of disease amongst dairy cattle occurred during the year.

On February 26th I reported to the Board that several cases of contagious pleuro pneumonia had broken out in the herd the property of the Dairy Farm Company at Pokfulam.

The Board met that day and decided that owing to the isolated position of the farm it was not necessary to adopt the radical measure of slaughtering the whole herd, but were of opinion that the strict segregation and subsequent slaughter of all diseased animals, and the immediate inoculation of the remainder of the herd which were not affected, would meet the requirements of the case.

Fifteen animals contracted the disease and were dealt with accordingly; whilst one hundred and fifty-eight (158) animals were successfully inoculated, with only one fatal result therefrom.

No fresh cases occurred after the herd was inoculated, and the premises were accordingly declared free from disease.

It is a matter of congratulation that the Board decided to allow the inoculation of the herd, and which proved so successful, rather than adopt the more drastic method of "slaughtering out," which would have cost the colony at least \$20,000.

There is no doubt that the disease was conveyed to the farm by animals which had been imported from Australia.

I have frequently tried to impress upon the dairy farmers the risk attendant upon the introduction of foreign animals into their herds, at the same time pointing out the many advantages of colonial bred cattle, animals bred and reared

in the colony being naturally less susceptible to fevers and other tropical diseases.

The second outbreak was that of cattle plague, or rinderpest, which occurred in two native dairies at Wanchai.

I reported the matter to the Board on the morning of April 11th, and at a Special Meeting which was held that afternoon it was decided to slaughter and bury the whole of the animals housed in the two sheds without delay.

The order was carried out at once, and before midnight the premises had been thoroughly cleansed and disinfected.

Twenty-six animals in all destroyed, the owners receiving compensation to the amount of \$1,120.

In this case the disease was brought across by animals imported from the mainland.

As far back as 1881 I recommended that no dairies be licensed by the Board within the precincts of the city, but I regret to note that no steps have yet been taken to consider my suggestion.

In fact, I go so far as to say that no animals, either sheep, swine, or cattle, should be housed in the city.

During the past seven years in which I have had control of the food supply of the colony, many complaints have reached me respecting the inferior quality of much of the beef exposed for sale in the various markets.

Being fully aware of the correctness of such statements, and having gone carefully into the matter, I finally decided to recommend the prohibition of the importation of all dead meat into the colony.

In three reports dated the 3rd and 21st August, 1894, and 10th November, 1894, I explained the matter fully to the Board, pointing out that all dead meat imported into the colony was of a very inferior quality, and for that reason alone it was advisable to prohibit it, as it was impossible to condemn the meat, however much emaciated, if not actually diseased; and suggested certain alterations in schedule D of Ordinance 17 of 1887, which I thought would meet the requirements of the case.

The Board decided that it was inexpedient to adopt my suggestions upon the ground that such measures would interfere with the importation of meat from Shanghai, Japan, and Australia; although in my final report I pointed out that meat from the above places was never exposed for sale in any of the markets, and in case it should be at any future period, that if by-law framed under sub-section 9 of section 13 of the Public Health Ordinance (24 of 1887) prohibiting the importation of all dead meat from the province of Kwangtung would effectually meet the case, mentioning at the same time that the Singapore Municipal Council has just passed a similar resolution—prohibiting the importation of all dead meat—presumably for the same reasons as advanced by myself.

THE FALL OF THE OLD VICTORIA HOTEL ROOF.

At the Magistracy on Saturday Mr. H. E. Wodehouse concluded the inquiry as to the deaths of the three persons killed by the fall of the old Victoria Hotel roof.

Mr. H. P. Tooker, Executive Engineer of the Public Works Department, said he had visited the scene of the accident. He was of opinion the roof came down owing to the beams being badly decayed. There were traces of white ants, but the decay was entirely dry rot. There had been bad construction the beams being built solidly into the wall without ventilation. He did not consider there had been proper maintenance. The building had been untenanted for a long time and greatly neglected.

Mr. D. H. Silas, assistant to Messrs. D. Sassoon, Sons & Co., said his firm was the sole mortgagee of the building. The building had been vacant since Mr. Derabjee left it, in 1894. The firm did not know that any one was living on the premises except the watchman. It was intended to sell the building.

His Worship found as follows:—The deceased came by their deaths by the fall of the roof of the building known as the old Victoria Hotel, such collapse being due to the decay of the beams which the building had been built into the wall without ventilation at the time of their deaths having been in the building at their own risk and without the knowledge of the sole mortgagee.

THE GYMKHANA MEETING.

The first Gymkhana of the season was held on Saturday afternoon in the presence of a fairly large number of spectators, among whom were his Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., and Major-General Black. The sky was overcast during the afternoon, but fortunately rain did not fall, and the meeting consequently proved a success. The programme contained seven events, and the racing was in every respect very enjoyable.

The following is a list of the officials:—

Patrons—His Excellency the Governor; Major General Black; Commodore Boyes.

Committee—Capt. Gould-Adams, R.A., Mr. R. Alexander, Mr. A. Babington, Lieut-Col. Barrow, Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Lord Chas. Conyngham, Mr. W. A. Cruickshank, Capt. Gordon, R.A., Mr. R. M. Gray, Capt. Loveband, A.D.C., Mr. A. S. Manners, Mr. G. C. C. Master, Lt.-Col. The O'Gorman, D.A.A.G., and Mr. C. S. Taylor.

Judges—Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving and Lieut-Col. The O'Gorman.

Starter—Mr. A. Babington.

Clerk of the Scales—Mr. R. Alexander.

Timekeeper—Mr. R. M. Gray.

Hon. Secretary—Mr. Hart Buck.

During the afternoon the band of the Rifle Brigade played the following selections:—

March	"Semper Fidelis"	Sousa.
Selection	"The Mountebanks"	Callier.
Waltz	"Louisiana"	Squire.
Gavotte	"Eunice"	Perdue.
Selection	"Babylove"	Williams.
Waltz	"Innamorata"	Fare.
	God Save the Queen.	

THREE-LEGGED (BLINDFOLD) RACE, for Asiatics; distance about 50 yards; first \$6.00; second \$4.00; third \$3.00; fourth \$2.00.

This race afforded a good illustration of the blind leading the blind, assuming, of course, that all the competitors were really and truly blindfolded. The winners ran exceedingly well, and the others, with the exception of two, who stopped shortly after starting and wondered where on earth they were, followed in a higgledy piggledy fashion, the second and third places being closely contested.

HALF MILE RACE, for all China ponies; weight for inches as per scale with 10 lbs. added; subscription griffins allowed 10 lbs.; *bond fide* polo ponies allowed 15 lbs.; winners at any race meeting of one race 7 lbs. extra, of two or more such races 10 lbs. extra; entrance \$1.00; first prize a cup value about \$40; second 70 per cent. of entrance fees; third 30 per cent.

Mr. Manners' Magic, 11st. 5lbs.	(Mr. Cruickshank)	1
Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving's Daylight, 12st.	(Mr. Master)	2
Mr. Hart Buck's Voltigeur, 11st. 11lbs.	(Owner)	3
Lord C. Conyngham's Baccarat, 11st. 10lbs.	(Mr. Power)	0
Major Moore's Sweetbriar, 11st. 6lbs.	(Mr. Paley)	0
Capt. Loveband's The Friar, 10st. 5lbs.	(Mr. Hunt)	0
Mr. Burdon's Black and White, 12st. (Owner)		0
Mr. Cumming's Premier, 10st. 7lbs.	(Dr. Noble)	0

Magic had a slight lead at the start and the others followed in close order, but they soon became straggling. At the bend the three placed were running well together. Magic ran splendidly, and although Daylight made a gallant attempt to reach him in the straight he failed, and Mr. Manners' pony won by four lengths; half a length between second and third. Time, 1 min. 1 sec.

SACK RACE, 100 yards; for Europeans; first \$7.00; second \$5.00; third \$3.00; fourth \$1.00.

This race was very amusing, as it always is. For a few yards only from the starting point did the whole of the competitors keep their feet, and then the race was upset, or at least the competitors were, several more or less unique somersaults being witnessed, to the intense amusement of the spectators, if not—and probably not—to the participants in the race.

ONE MILE HANDICAP, for all China ponies; first prize a cup value about \$50; second 70 per cent. of entrance fees; third 30 per cent.

Mr. W. A. Cruickshank's Havoc, 11st. 5lbs.	(Owner)	1
Mr. R. M. Gray's Pickaninny, 10st. 10lbs.	(Mr. Master)	2

Lord Chas. Conyngham's Baccarat, 11st. 4lbs.

(Owner) 3

Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving's Daylight, 11st. 2lbs.

(Mr. Gedge) 0

Mr. W. A. Cruickshank's Simple Simon, 10st. 7lbs.

(Mr. Hunt) 0

Mr. Hart Buck's Viper, 11st. 6lbs. (Owner) 0

The lot were got away to a capital start and were all in a cluster on passing the stand. Coming out of the straight, however, Havoc took a slight lead, with Pickaninny a length behind and the others close up. This position was maintained until coming down the hill, when Havoc began to draw out, and responding gamely to the call overtook Pickaninny at the bend, and then a desperate race down the straight resulted in Havoc winning by about a length, Pickaninny depriving Baccarat of second place about half a dozen lengths from home. The winning owner, Mr. Cruickshank, ran two ponies, but did not declare. Time, 2 min. 30 secs.

HURDLE RACE, ONE MILE, for all China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; winners of a steeplechase or hurdle race 10 lbs. extra; *bond fide* polo ponies allowed 7 lbs.; entrance \$1; first prize a cup value about \$40; second 70 per cent. of entrance fees; third 30 per cent.

Mr. Hart Buck's Voltigeur, 11st. 11lb. (Owner) 1

Mr. Manners' Magic, 11st. 8lbs.

(Mr. Cruickshank) 2

Mr. Master's Engineer, 10st. 9lbs. (Owner) 3

Capt. F. R. Loveband's The Friar, 12st. 6lbs.

(car. 14st.) (Owner) 0

Mr. G. N. Salmon's Q.C., 11st. 5lbs.

(car. 11st. 6lbs.) (Owner) 0

Magic, who had a good share of the favouritism, got away at the start, and taking the hurdles in splendid style made the whole of the running until coming down the hill the second time round for home, when Voltigeur, who had been running a strong race, was whipped up, and Magic, failing to stave off the challenge dropped back into second place, Voltigeur coming away and winning by about two lengths. Engineer was third, The Friar fourth, and Q.C. last. Time, 2 min. 26 secs.

THREE-QUARTERS OF A MILE RACE, for all China ponies; winners at this Gymkhana meeting excluded; weight for inches as per scale with 10 lbs. added; subscription griffins allowed 10 lbs.; *bond fide* polo ponies allowed 15 lbs.; winners at any race meeting of one race 7 lbs. extra, of two or more such races 10 lbs. extra; entrance \$1; first prize a cup value about \$40; second 70 per cent. of entrance fees; third 30 per cent.

Mr. R. M. Gray's Pickaninny 10st. 9lbs.

(Mr. Master) 1

Mr. W. A. Cruickshank's Warlock, 11st. 11lbs.

(Owner) 2

Mr. W. A. Cruickshank's Simple Simon, 11st. 6lbs. (Mr. Gedge) 3

Major Moore's Sweetbriar, 11st. 6lbs. (Mr. Paley) 0

Lord Chas. Conyngham's Dandy, 11st. 10lbs.

(Owner) 0

From a false start Dandy bolted and completed the course twice before he was pulled up; but on the second sound of the bell, as if by instinct, he jumped away again and followed the field round, but did not take part in the race. The issue of this race was never in doubt, as Pickaninny, who was made a hot favourite on account of his previous running, quickly assumed the lead and maintaining his advantage won cleverly by a length and a half; bad third. Time, 1 min. 40 secs.

LADIES' NOMINATION, each competitor to start from a post 100 yards up the course and ride to the lady who nominates him, take one potato from her each time, return and drop it into his bucket. Should he fail or the potato not remain he must dismount, put the potato into the bucket, and mount without assistance. To win, first past the winning post third time in, with all three potatoes in the bucket. Two prizes, presented by the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving and Mr. G. B. Dodwell.

Nominated by

Mr. D. Landale's Endeavour, Miss A. Jackson 1

Mr. G. Paley's El Diablo, Mrs. Hawkins 2

Mr. W. R. Wingfield Digby's Punch

Wallah Mrs. Hoey 0

Mr. J. S. Bruce's Sir Visto Mrs. Sansom 0

Mr. W. D. Graham's Haughty Mrs. Richardson 0

Capt. F. R. Loveband's The Friar, Mrs. Leigh 0

Capt. Burney's Zero Mrs. Wise 0

Mr. Masters's Engineer Mrs. Master 0

Mr. E. R. Burdon's Griffel, Miss McIntosh 0

Mr. G. N. Salmon's Q.C. Mrs. Moore 0

Mr. W. A. Cruickshank's Iron Duke Miss Jackson 0

Lieut.-Col. The O'Gorman's Yellow Hammer Mrs. Botfield 0

Mr. H. Burton's Highflyer Mrs. Dowler 0

Mr. Alexander's Pirate Mrs. Eccles 0

The whole of the fourteen ponies entered took part in this race, which was divided into four heats. But the length to which these preliminaries extended the race, which was further delayed by the riders dropping their potatoes and the ponies coming into contact with the buckets, which each time meant a dismount, grew rather monotonous and detracted somewhat from the interest which usually surrounds the event. The final heat was a little more interesting, however, and resulted in the success of Mr. D. Landale's Endeavour, Miss Jackson's nomination, with Mr. Paley's El Diablo second, nominated by Mrs. Hawkins. An unfortunate accident happened to one of the riders in this race. Capt. Burney, who was riding Zero, fell in attempting to pick up his bucket, a badly sprained wrist being the result.

HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

PROFESSIONAL FOURSOMES.

The final round in this competition was played in the Happy Valley on Tuesday last, when after playing a drawn game the Doctors vanquished the Secretaries and thus have the honour of being, under handicap, the best golfing Profession in the colony. The details of the draw were as follows:—

FIRST ROUND.

Captain R. M. Rumsey and Mr. J. G. T. Buckle, Civil Service (4 strokes), beat Commodore Boyes, R.N., and Dr. F. Bishop, R.N. Navy (7 strokes), by 6 up and 5 to play.

Dr. J. A. Lowson and Dr. J. Bell, Doctors (3 strokes), beat Mr. G. Stewart and Mr. A. Coxon, Brokers (4 strokes), by 5 up and 4 to play.

Captain J. M. Stewart, R.B., and Lieut. Lord Conyngham, R.B., Army (7 strokes), beat Rev. R. F. Cobbold and Rev. St. A. Baylee, Church (9 strokes), by 3 up and 1 to play.

Captain W. V. Eccles, R.B., and Lieut. W. M. Thompson, R.E., Army (scratch), beat Mr. W. J. Saunders and Mr. H. W. Slade, Commerce (9 strokes), by 5 up and 4 to play. Mr. E. A. Ram and Mr. C. Palmer, Architects (4 strokes), beat Mr. H. L. Dalrymple and Mr. F. Maitland, Commerce (5 strokes), by 5 up and 4 to play.

Mr. V. A. C. Hawkins and Mr. J. Thurburn, Bankers (6 strokes), a bye.

Mr. J. Hastings and Mr. F. B. Deacon, Lawyers (9 strokes), a bye.

Mr. C. H. Grace and Mr. W. A. Duff, Secretaries (6 strokes), a bye.

SECOND ROUND.

Dr. J. A. Lowson and Dr. J. Bell, Doctors, beat Captain R. M. Rumsey and Mr. J. G. T. Buckle, Civil Service, by 5 up and 3 to play.

Captain W. V. Eccles, R.B., and Lieut. W. M. Thompson, R.E., Army, beat Captain J. M. Stewart, R.B., and Lieut. Lord C. Conyngham, Army, by 3 up and 2 to play.

Mr. V. A. C. Hawkins and Mr. J. Thurburn, Bankers, beat Mr. E. A. Ram and Mr. C. Palmer, Architects, by 2 up.

Mr. C. H. Grace and Mr. W. A. Duff, Secretaries, beat Mr. J. Hastings and Mr. F. B. Deacon, Lawyers, by 3 up and 2 to play.

SEMI-FINAL.

Dr. J. A. Lowson and Dr. J. Bell, Doctors, beat Captain W. V. Eccles, R.B., and Lieut. W. M. Thompson, R.E., Army, by 2 up.

Mr. C. H. Grace and Mr. W. A. Duff, Secretaries, beat Mr. V. A. C. Hawkins and Mr. J. Thurburn, Bankers, by 7 up and 5 to play.

FINAL.

Dr. J. A. Lowson and Dr. J. Bell, Doctors, beat Mr. C. H. Grace and Mr. W. A. Duff, Secretaries, by 4 up and 2 to play, after a drawn game.

The German-Chinese steamer *Feilung* has been sold to Japanese, we (*China Gazette*) believe, the price being Tls. 57,000 less 5 per cent. The *Feilung* was largely owned by local Chinese officials.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

Twenty-nine members were present on Saturday to compete for the Short Range Cup and Spoons. The shooting was fair. The Cup was won by Captain Palmer and the Spoons by Sapper Thompson, R.E., Mr. J. Henderson, Mr. A. Ewing, Sapper Lawson, R.E., Mr. Rutter, and Mr. Deas. The following were the best scores:—

	200 yds.	300 yds.	H'cap points.	Total.
Captain Palmer	32	32	3	67
Sapper Thompson, R.E.	32	30	3	65
Mr. J. Henderson	30	23	12	65
Mr. A. Ewing	24	25	15	64
Sapper Lawson, R.E.	28	31	4	63
Mr. Rutter	28	23	12	63
Mr. Deas	26	26	10	62
Cr. Sergt. Horsman, R.B.	33	23	—	61
Mr. G. L. Duncan	30	21	10	61
Corporal Woolridge, R.B.	30	23	—	55
Private Godbear, R.B.	31	23	—	55
Private Priddy, R.B.	30	25	4	59
Mr. Spafford	25	19	15	59
Cr. Sergt. Hopkins, R.B.	31	26	—	57
Mr. D. McDonald	27	20	10	57

THE CRISIS IN FORMOSA.

The *China Mail* publishes the following telegrams from its special correspondents:—

TAIPEHFU, 6th June.

A state of absolute disorder and chaos still prevails here. Last night the native city of Taipeifu, together with the powder mill, were destroyed by fire by the Chinese.

This morning, whilst the Chinese were engaged in looting, a powder magazine exploded, and nearly one hundred Chinese were killed.

The Japanese army is about ten miles away from the capital.

At Hobé the German gunboat *Iltis* was compelled to clear for action and open fire upon the Chinese forts. After some shots were exchanged the forts were silenced and the Chinese gunners fled.

The steamer *Arthur* (*Martha*?), with President Tang and upwards of two thousand soldiers on board, fleeing from the island, were then allowed to proceed.

HOBÉ, 7th June.

I have visited Hobé to ascertain particulars of the attack upon the steamer *Arthur*. As she came down the river with the President Tang on board with upwards of two thousand followers, she was fired upon by the Chinese in the forts at Hobé. Seven men on board the *Arthur* were killed and seventeen wounded.

The German gunboat *Iltis* opened fire in reply to the forts, killing thirteen Chinese inside the fortifications. This had the effect of silencing the fire, and the *Arthur* escaped without further molestation.

The Japanese forces have now come up, practically unopposed, from Kelung, and Admiral Kabayama has established his headquarters at the capital, Taipeifu.

It may be said that the Japanese are now in complete possession of the whole of North Formosa, at the cost of the loss of only eight men.

The natives are submitting willingly to the Japanese conquerors, and no further trouble is anticipated in this quarter.

I am glad to be able to report that none of the foreigners have been molested.

During the few days of excitement and disorder which existed here and at Taipeifu prior to the arrival of the Japanese advance guard, upwards of one million dollars' worth of Chinese property is estimated to have been looted, principally by the deserting Chinese soldiers. The place is now assuming a more tranquil and peaceful aspect under the Japanese administration.

To-day, says the *China Gazette* of the 3rd inst., half a dozen agents, foreign and Chinese, acting on behalf of the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, are ransacking the settlement and pestering everyone who ever had the slightest connection with electric supplies, offering about 200 per cent. above the usual prices for old cable and electric wire of all kinds. The stuff is wanted at once to be shipped by the *Martha* to Formosa to lay land and submarine mines. Chang is directing the entire operations and conducting the rebellion from his yamen in Nanking.

THE HANDING OVER OF FORMOSA.

RETURN OF LI CHING-FANG AND MR. FOSTER.

A representative of the *Shanghai Mercury* saw Mr. Foster this morning (5th inst.), who briefly informed him of the result to the trip to Formosa. It will be remembered the Chinese Commissioner, Li Ching-fang, accompanied by Mr. Foster as legal adviser, left Shanghai in the *Kungyi* on Thursday last for Formosa. On Sunday evening, the 2nd inst., Tamsui was reached, and the party found by communication with their friends on shore that it was impossible for the Commissioner to land there, as the feeling amongst the people was so strong against the Commission that had a landing been made serious results might have ensued. At Tamsui there were one or two Japanese men-of-war, but these were careful enough to lie outside the harbour out of range of the guns of the forts. The insurgents made no attempt to molest the Commissioner's party in any way. The Commissioner was informed by the officers of one of the Japanese men-of-war that Admiral Kabayama, the Japanese Commissioner, was off Kelung on board a man-of-war. The *Kungyi* thereupon steamed off for Kelung, and on nearing that place met several Japanese war-vessels. Admiral Kabayama was on one and he duly boarded the *Kungyi*. Several conferences were held between the two Commissioners, and at length the papers transferring the island from China to Japan were duly signed and the Japanese Commissioner accepted the signature as a full compliance with the Treaty between the two Powers. Nothing else was done and after courtesies had been exchanged the Commissioners separated, Li Ching-fang and Mr. Foster proceeding in the *Kungyi* the following morning to Shanghai. On Monday the Japanese commander had decided that if the insurgents did not yield the Japanese ships would bombard Kelung.

Mr. Foster having completed his mission will return to the United States by the first mail that leaves Shanghai.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

We have learned the following additional particulars of the trip of the *Kungyi* with the Commissioner to turn Formosa over to the Japanese, Lord Li, and suite on board. When the *Kungyi* arrived off Tamsui, she was met by a Japanese man-of-war, which upon learning that the Commissioner was on board, sent off a boat with a letter to Lord Li. This was found to contain a request that the Commission would follow the Japanese vessel to the rendezvous of the Japanese fleet. Before this request was complied with, communications were received from shore. It was learned that all the Chinese officials except Governor Tong had left for the mainland, and that the Custom's employees were under orders to leave by the first opportunity. The Japanese fleet was joined at 4 p.m. last Saturday. The fleet consisted of two men-of-war, the *Yokohama Maru*, which carried Admiral Kabayama and his suite, and fourteen transports. These were in a bay east of Kelung about ten miles, with deep water close in shore. Upon the *Kungyi* reaching this place, Lord Li at once proceeded on board the *Yokohama Maru*, to pay his visit to the Japanese Commissioner. Shortly after his return to the *Kungyi*, the Japanese Commissioner returned the visit, and a long consultation took place in the saloon of the *Kungyi*. The preliminaries were arranged, and the time set for the formal exchange of the documents was fixed for Sunday afternoon. But owing to the documents—copies in Chinese and Japanese being made of each language—having been signed in the wrong order, a delay occurred, and it was close upon midnight before the actual exchange took place. Sunday morning Lord Li visited Admiral Kabayama, and on leaving the Chinese flag was saluted with fifteen guns. After that all communications took place between the Commissioners by means of secretaries. Immediately after the exchange the *Kungyi* left for Shanghai, Lord Li declining the escort proffered the vessel by the Japanese. The *Kungyi* reached Shanghai safely yesterday.

THE OUTLOOK.

While the party were lying with the Japanese fleet, some particulars of the force engaged and expected were gathered. Four Japanese men-of-war were about: one was engaged in watching Tamsui, she lying within five miles of the forts, but being sheltered from their fire

by the intervening hills; one was engaged in scouting duty about the north end of the island, and two, including the flag-ship, were with the transports. These numbered fourteen, and had brought 10,000 of the Imperial Guards, and their accoutrements. Most of these were on shore, but preparations were being made to convey them to Kelung on Monday. The Japanese stated that if the Commission would wait until Monday they would be landed at Kelung, as they would take that place in the morning. Before the *Kungyi* left, the two men-of-war steamed round to the entrance of Kelung and fired a shot as a signal that they were ready to begin. The land forces had only to march some ten miles to be at Kelung itself, and the road was very fair. It was further expected by the Japanese that within a week another twenty thousand men would be landed on the island, and then good-bye to the Republic.

REINFORCEMENTS.

Nothing was seen by the *Kungyi* of the German steamer *Arthur*, which left Shanghai the same day as she did. This vessel must therefore have reached her destination safely. We have not yet alluded to this vessel, as it seemed rather *infra dig.* to give information which might lead to her stoppage. She left Shanghai with two high Chinese officials on board. In addition she bore Mr. Waters and his secretary Mr. Prebble. Mr. Waters has been engaged several months in perfecting the torpedo defences of North Formosa. He is specially fitted for this duty through his thorough training as a torpedo-instructor in the British Navy, and so well did he satisfy the officials in the island that he was deputed to come to Shanghai to procure what stores he thought necessary for the defence of the place. He had sent a vast quantity of munitions of various sorts by the *Martha*, and was preparing to follow with more in the *Arthur* when the news of the Japanese cruisers being about caused the Governor to telegraph that he was to return at once. As there was every probability of the *Arthur* being overhauled, and as she might be captured if contraband were found on her, these were all discharged and the vessel left flying light, to convey its passengers—and perhaps some treasure. As nothing has since been heard to the contrary, she has probably succeeded in landing her passengers to the south of the Japanese range of operations, and we may hear at any day of their being in the midst of the present exciting doings.

DESPERATE ANTI-FOREIGN OUTRAGES IN SZECHUEN.

THE FRENCH BISHOP WOUND-D.

ALL THE MISSIONARIES PRISONERS.

We have received a brief outline of a whole series of the most daring and cowardly outrages committed upon the American, British, and French missionaries in Chengtu, the capital of Szechuen, which bears out strangely the recent professions of the Chinese Government in favour of missionaries and foreigners generally. Our information is from the most unimpeachable source, but for the present it is not desirable to mention the quarter for reasons that are obvious. The outrages were not spontaneous, for certain missionaries at Shanghai have received hints which led them to expect such outrages any time during the past two months. There is, fortunately, the most convincing proof that these outrages are not the acts of ignorant or fanatical people, but are the result of the deliberate, studied, and cowardly incitement of the highest officials in the province. So far there is no chance of connecting the Peking Government with the dastardly crime, but it is impossible that facts which pointed to some such outbreaks being in contemplation, and which facts were in possession of people in Shanghai, should have been unknown in Peking; or that the Central Government, if it wished, could not have prevented such outrages. From the information that has reached us it appears that in consequence of the machinations of the officials, mobs of hired ruffians surrounded the premises of the American Mission and destroyed them on the 23rd ult. Next day the English Missions were similarly destroyed; and on the 30th the premises of the French Missions were devastated and the French Bishop, we have not

yet learnt his name) wounded. So far we have not heard that any other members of the missionary community were injured. There are now all prisoners in the yamens of the Chengtu officials. Yesterday and to-day the unfortunate missionaries, who have lost all their worldly possessions and been treated like wild beasts, were allowed to go outside the yamens to see the wreck of their homes and schools, but to-day we have received telegraphic news that their guards will not allow them to move or breathe the air, lest they should communicate with the outside world. Men, women, and children of French, British, and American nationality are at this moment in danger of being torn to pieces by the hired mobs of this civilized country. There is in Shanghai at the present moment more than one copy of the secret notices sent round by the Viceroy of Szechuen to the officials stamped with the viceregal seal and bearing the viceregal chop, ordering them to arrange for simultaneous attacks upon all the foreigners and missionaries in the province, and calling upon the people to drive the "devils" out.

The British and American missionaries in Chengtu at present, so far as we can learn, are as follows:—Canadian Methodist Mission, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Hart, Mr. and Mrs. Hartwell, Dr. and Mrs. Stevenson, Dr. and Mrs. Kilborn, Mr. and Mrs. Endicott, Dr. Hare, Miss Sara C. Brackhill; China Inland Mission, Dr. and Mrs. Parry, Mr. and Mrs. Cormack, Misses Wilson and Hol, Methodist Episcopal Mission, Dr. and Mrs. Canright, Rev. J. F. Peat, Rev. H. O. and Mrs. Cady.—*China Gazette*.

A FINANCIAL CRISIS IN PEKING.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *China Gazette* writes on the 28th ultimo:—A week ago one of the metropolitan official incapables here was boasting of the plethora of money at the command of the Central Government on the easiest terms imaginable, as if China had just won some great victories and had improved until it was never better before. Four and a half per cent. for a silver loan issued at 96½ per cent. was the tune played by these great metropolitan incapables, and the result of their boastfulness is a financial crisis at Peking. The Empress's private purse, like everything else Chinese, was not get-at-able just now, the treasures of all Boards had run below their bottom tael. Russia not only does not intend to give China money but demands fifty million taels for her expenses in protecting Manchuria, while France and Germany each demand ten millions for the expense they have been put to to protest against the annexation of Liaotung by Japan. So now it is reported in Chinese circles. Another thing come to pass is that the abolition of the Chinese Board of Admiralty, which was decided upon after the loss of Weihaiwei and the Northern Squadron, has now been revoked and the Admiralty is to be reorganised as soon as things get settled a little. Yang Ju has already bought three ships from Chili and others are to be obtained without delay. All this will require money and China has none, and she has lost the opportunity to get money on reasonable terms from England.

SERIOUS COLLISION AT CHINKIANG.

THE "FOOKSANG" RAMMED BY THE "TRITOS."

A very serious collision occurred on Saturday evening, 1st June, at Chinkiang, between the German steamer *Tritos* (Captain Corneilsen) and the Indo-China steamer *Fooksang* (Captain Wilde.) The *Fooksang* had arrived from Shanghai and was taking in a cargo of rice, and the *Tritos* was about to leave for Shanghai when the accident occurred. Pilot Burr was on board the *Tritos*, but the captain was actually in charge of the vessel at the moment the collision happened. It appears that as soon as the *Tritos* got under weigh, the engines were put full speed ahead and the helm hard-a-starboard in order to take her clear of the shipping, but in executing the manoeuvre the strong ebb tide caught her and swung her right round into the *Fooksang*, which was lying off Jardine's hulk. She struck the *Fooksang* stem on, about two feet abaft the bow, cutting her right down from the hawse pipe to the keel on the port side. Fortunately the watertight doors in the after end of the forepeak were closed, other-

wise the vessel would have filled and sunk in 17 fathoms of water, and her anchor chain stood the strain, though the winch on the fore-castle gave way. Had the chain parted the *Fooksang* would have drifted down on to four vessels which were lying astern of her, the *Birkhall*, *Tsian*, *Beatrice*, and *Neuchwang*. The *Bonnington* was also at anchor in the neighbourhood and it was in passing under her stern that the *Tritos* was caught by the tide and drifted down on the *Fooksang*. After the collision the *Tritos*, which also sustained considerable damage above the waterline, went full speed astern and was very skillfully taken down through the avenue of steamers which were lying off the Bund, and her anchor was dropped below the *Beatrice*, but the "chow chow" water being too strong in that position, she was taken over to the north shore and anchored, after which Captain Corneilsen and Pilot Burr went on board the *Fooksang* to ascertain what damage had been done and whether the *Fooksang* required any assistance. Both she and the *Fooksang* subsequently proceeded to Shanghai, arriving there late on the 2nd inst., the *Tritos*, however, not coming up the river, but remaining at Woosung, where she was visited by Captain Parker next morning to ascertain her seaworthiness. It is thought she is staunch enough to continue her voyage to Hongkong, but the *Fooksang* will have to be docked immediately.—*China Gazette*.

The *Tritos* arrived at Hongkong on Sunday.

THE SHANGHAI COTTON CLOTH MILL.

On the site of the extensive mill which was burned on the Yangtse-poo Road in the autumn of 1893, the proprietors, the Chinese Cotton Cloth and Yarn Administration Company, have erected a new series of buildings, which even in their present incomplete state, far exceed the proportions of the old establishment. The new premises are literally of vast extent, and when the additional buildings which it is the intention of the proprietors to erect at an early date are put up, there will be nothing to come up to the mill in size in the whole East. Not the least remarkable feature about the establishment is the rapidity with which it has been put up, in which respect it really reminds one of the marvellous feats of American builders; and though the whole range of mills, engine-houses, dwellings, offices, and godowns, which cover as much ground as a small town, has been constructed in little over a year, everything about the premises is of the most solid and substantial character. The old mill was destroyed in the middle of October, 1893, and by the following September work was permanently recommenced in the new; and not alone that, but the proprietors, acquiring the foreshore for a long distance down the river-bank, ran up building after building, until there is now one continuous block of factories belonging to the Administration, extending almost down to the great Chinese Gardens. A great deal of this is due to the energy of Danforth, the foreign Superintendent, and his assistants, who since the great fire in 1893 have been indefatigable in their efforts to recommence work in the new mill. It will still be some months before the whole establishment is properly set going, but when it is, it will be the greatest industrial establishment in China. All the machinery, engines, etc., have been procured from England and America, Messrs. Dobson Barlow of Bolton being most largely drawn upon for the supply. Profiting by their former terrible experience the proprietors have contrived new and better arrangements for dealing with fires, should an accident unfortunately happen again. Several fire engines are kept ready on the premises and a corps of Chinese firemen have been properly trained to handle them. Hydrants are placed in the most convenient positions, and, in fact, nothing has been neglected calculated to ensure the future safety of the establishment, a detailed description of which will be published when it is in full working order.—*China Gazette*.

On the 1st inst. the British men-of-war left Nagasaki with Admiral Buller's flag flying. They are making for Chefoo, where we (*Nagasaki Express*) understand they intend to stay some time.

THE CHANG-KEE COTTON MILL.

The Chang-kee cotton mill which occupies the premises of the old Empire Brewery, Yangtze-poo Road, is expected to be working in a couple of months. It is a very extensive establishment, for the Brewery has been added to considerably by a long row of buildings erected at the back, and it is intended as time goes on to still further increase the size of the concern. The main building which faces the road is 300 feet long, by 100 feet wide, and runs north and south. Here are placed 12,000 spindles, which it is thought will be amply sufficient for the present needs of the mill. At the north end, in a semi-detached building, accommodation is provided for a few looms. The scutching room is situated in the southern end of the main building, from which it is separated by a firewall. Indeed one of the most commendable features of the whole concern is the attention which has been devoted to precautions against fire, there being no wood used in the building except what is absolutely necessary, everything else being made of iron and brick. There are two large boilers in the boiler-house, each measuring 28 feet by 7 feet, and capable of sustaining a daily working pressure of 100 pounds. They are made by the Oldham Boiler Company. In the same house is a set of Green's Economisers, consisting of 120 tubes. The engine, which is the work of a well-known Lancashire maker, J. H. Woods of Bolton, is of the horizontal, compound, surface-condensing type, having cylinders measuring 18 and 36 inches, with a 24 inch stroke, and working up to 350 horse-power. Adjoining the engine-house is an admirably fitted machine-shop, containing lathes, planing and drilling machines, etc., and further on is the room containing the electric light plant, which consists of a vertical engine, made by Marshall of Gainsborough, connected with a Crompton dynamo, for working 400 16-candle power lamps; a Gardner machine, driven by a smaller engine, also by Marshall & Co., capable of working 100 lights, acting as a pilot circuit. The internal arrangements of the mill have been designed by Mr. Inglis, agent for Asa Lees, a well-known maker of cotton machinery, who, however, has not before fitted any mill in China. The manager of the mill, Mr. Ma, is a gentleman well known in the cotton trade in Shanghai, and altogether the new concern is starting with every prospect of success. Later on a ginning mill will be erected on the east side of the road to supply the Chang-kee Spinning mill with clean cotton. The machinery for the ginning mill is now being made by the Shanghai Engine Works and some local native manufacturers.—*China Gazette*.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

It is reported that a few days ago Admiral Cheung Shao-chung, by the order of the Viceroy of Canton, sent soldiers and ammunition by several Chinese junks to the districts of Cheung-Ngok and Wing-on to stop the revolts which broke out there some time ago. It is said that the rebels have long been residing among the surrounding mountains of the said districts and often came out to plunder houses and commit serious offences, and if the local officers tried to pursue them they would immediately run back to their mountainous home, which the soldiers found it rather hard to approach. The gates of the city of Wing-on have now been closed in fear of the approach of the rebels.

With reference to the war loan we learn that a further sum of Tls. 15,750 was collected between the 29th ult. and the 4th inst. The total now aggregates Tls. 2,634,750 and the number of the last scrip is 10,539.

The Viceroy and the Governor of Canton have already drafted a notification which will be issued on the 12th inst. to the effect that many cases of ruin, embezzlement, robbery, and other serious offences are due to the opening of fantan gambling houses, which have taken out a licence and paid 300,000 taels to the Government for the monopoly per annum; that the licence was issued after the Franco-Chinese war with a view to raise money for building war-ships; and that after the 12th inst. all gambling houses in Canton as well as in all the districts and villages of Kwangtung must be closed; that the

soldiers and runners of all the yamens are prohibited to receive bribes under heavy penalties; that not only will any house used for fantan gambling be confiscated, but if the occupants of the five houses on its right and the five houses on its left do not inform the Government they also will be severely dealt with; and that if any one gives information of a gambling house he will be rewarded with half of the proceeds of the sale of the confiscated house, and that the gentry of the villages will also be held responsible if fantan gambling houses are opened in their neighbourhood.

A few days ago a San-sz, hearing that the Government is going to withdraw the licence of the fantan gambling houses, went to see H.E. Tan Chung-lun and told him that if the licence is to be withdrawn many thousands of people will be thrown out of employment and will be compelled to commit robberies. H.E. Tan Chung-lun said he had made up his mind to abolish the gambling houses at any risk.

The runaway General named Wang Sz-lam, who was arrested in Canton the other day, will be sent to Peking for final trial in a few days. When he was brought up for trial in Canton, he said a big officer told him to give up Port Arthur and not to fire any gun on the Japanese.

HONGKONG.

The weather continues unusually cool for the time of year; there have been several showers. On Wednesday a silver bowl was presented to Mr. C. H. Thompson by the members of the Victoria Recreation Club as a token of appreciation of the services he had rendered to the Club, and on Friday Mr. C. F. A. Sangster, who recently resigned the appointment of organist of St. John's Cathedral, was presented with addresses and souvenirs by the choir and congregation. A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Thursday, when the reconstruction of Tai Ping Shan formed the chief subject of discussion. On the following day the Sanitary Board met, and on Saturday the first of the Gymkhana meetings was held at the Happy Valley.

The arguments in the How Qua case, which has occupied the Supreme Court for several days past, were concluded on Thursday. Judgment was reserved.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that H.E. the Governor has been pleased to appoint Subadar Ikbal Singh, Hongkong Company, Royal Artillery, to be his Honorary Aide-de-Camp.

Four tenements in Hollywood Road were sold by auction on Thursday afternoon by Mr. Armstrong. Lot 1 was sold for \$6,100; lot 2 for \$4,300; lot 3 for \$3,750 and lot 4 for \$3,700.

Amongst the passengers by the P. & O. steamer *Rohilla* on Thursday were the Hon. R. M. Rumsey, Harbour Master, and Mr. A. B. Johnson, Crown Solicitor, who have both gone home on leave.

On Wednesday afternoon Mr. G. P. Lammert sold by auction leasehold property in Possession Street. Lot 1, which related to No. 2, Possession Street, was sold for \$9,000, and the remaining five lots—4, 6, 8, 10, and 12, Possession Street—were bought in for \$43,000.

The German mail steamer *Prinz Heinrich* was placed in the No. 1 Dock at Kowloon at noon on Thursday. This large dock was pumped down in the exceedingly short time of 2½ hours, the steamer's bottom given two coats of paint, and undocked again yesterday at the same hour, a particular expeditious piece of work with such a large steamer. The *Prinz Heinrich* proceeded to sea immediately upon leaving dock.

A *Gazette* Extraordinary was issued on Wednesday notifying that Her Majesty the Queen has been pleased to approve the following appointments to the Executive and Legislative Councils of the colony:—Henry Ernest Wodehouse, C.M.G., to be a Member of the Executive Council; Francis Henry May, C.M.G., to be an Official Member of the Legislative Council. It is further notified that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint, provisionally, William Charles Holland Hastings (Retired Commander, R.N.) and Arthur Kennedy Travers to be Official Members of the Legislative Council during the absence from the colony of the Honourable Robert Murray Rumsey (Retired Commander, R.N.), and the Honourable Francis Henry May, C.M.G., or until further notice.

Mr. G. B. Dodwell has joined the Board of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

The charge of shipping a case of vitriol without declaring its contents was again heard by Mr. Wodehouse at the Magistracy on Monday. The defendant, Kwong Tai Cheong, shipped the vitriol on the *Thales* as "medical syrup," and as it was being hauled out of the hold at Swatow the vitriol leaked out, and some damage was done. The defendant was fined \$100. Mr. Ellis appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Dennys for the defence.

Mr. Thomas, the proprietor of Thomas's Grill Room, died on Thursday from a severe attack of pneumonia. A few days ago, after taking a bath, Mr. Thomas lay down in a light kimono and fell asleep, with the result that he contracted a chill, which developed into the illness from which he died. In his business as a restaurateur Mr. Thomas was very successful and his genial and obliging disposition made him a favourite with everyone.

We are advised by the Secretary of the Pun-jom Mining Co., Limited, of the receipt of a telegram from the mines to the effect that "during the month of May the mill ran 27 days crushing 780 tons yielding 385 ounces and 410 tons headings for 45 ounces. The cyanide clean up is incomplete." A later telegram, dated 8th June, reads:—"Cyanide clean up wretchedly poor; treated 128 tons of tailings yielding 6 ounces of gold. Cannot explain by telegraph. Will write fully."

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the hospitals:—

Chan Ching Chi	\$25
Tong Wan Chew	20
Kwok Sin Lan	15
Wong Yu Chun	15
Lam Cho Po	10
Luk Koong Chun	10
Ng King Tong	5

The following returns of the average amount of Bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 31st May, 1895, as certified by the Managers of the respective Banks, are published:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China	1,471,461	800,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	4,538,785	2,500,000
National Bank of China, Ltd.	366,021	210,000
	\$6,424,267	\$3,510,000

On Thursday His Excellency Li Han-chang, ex-Viceroy of the Two Kwang, was entertained at tiffin in the Hongkong Hotel by the Commandant of Chinese Kowloon. The tiffin was laid in the new Chinese dining room, which had been specially reserved for the occasion, and the ex-Viceroy gave liberal gratuities to the attendants, being well pleased with his entertainment. In the afternoon he went over the building and expressed astonishment at the size and splendour of the great foreign hotel, the first, we believe, he has ever visited. His Excellency left here on Friday morning in the N. D. L. steamer *Prinz Heinrich*.

Of the issuing of new postage stamps there is, like the making of new books, seemingly no end. We have just received two new sets from Wuhu, one being the ordinary issue surcharged with postage due, and the other the same issue surcharged in black with Chinese valuation. This latter is for the benefit of natives, who it is to be hoped will appreciate the compliment and use the stamps. Meantime philatelists may be interested to know the face value of these two new sets of stamps, each ten in number, is one Mexican dollar. At the present rate of increase the China Treaty Ports will soon claim a section in collectors' albums all to themselves.

Another old resident passed away on Friday in the person of Mr. J. D. Kiley. Mr. Kiley was by trade a sailmaker and succeeded well in his business, from which he retired upon winning a big prize in the Manila lottery some years ago. This, however, instead of proving an advantage to him was the reverse, for after retiring from business on the strength of his windfall he proved unfortunate in his investments and having lost almost all he possessed had to recommence work under adverse circumstances and at a time of life at which exertion is to most men difficult. He was at the time of his death 65 years of age. Mr. Kiley enjoyed the respect of all who were brought in contact with him.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Shanghai papers would do well to wake up the postal authorities a little, for their copies for Hongkong have of late been coming to hand in a very irregular manner. Our latest date of the *N. C. Daily News* is the 1st June, although steamers have arrived in the interval with dates of the 4th and 6th June. The Post Office is apparently saving the full week's papers to send by the French mail due this morning. Of the *Mercury* we have received a copy dated the 5th inst., the last preceding date being the 31st ult. The three intervening papers are missing. Of the *China Gazette* we have copies up to the 3rd June, but the issues of the 4th and 5th, which might have been sent down by the *Fushun* leaving on the 6th, have not yet come to hand.

What is believed to be a relic of the ill-fated steamer *Billiton* was picked up the other day, we learn from the *Penang Gazette*. It is a teak clincher-built life boat. The boat is 22ft. 6in. long, 6ft. 3in. beam, and fitted with yellow metal air chambers; the starboard side aft is scorched with fire; the bow planks are opened out, and the stern badly damaged. There is a small badge on each bow painted blue, with a ten-pointed hollow star in the centre. The following articles were found in the boat, viz., a black handle 2-bladed brass mounted penknife, 7 keys of sorts, 1 brass tube, 1 elastic belt, and 1 towcham end with tassels. It is intended to send the boat, together with the articles above-mentioned, to Singapore, where there may be persons who can identify it.

Lord Li seems to have gone to Formosa with the greatest reluctance. A Kyoto press telegram of the 27th May, translated by the *Japan Mail*, reads as follows:—"It is stated that a telegram despatched by the Viceroy Li at Tientsin was received by the Government yesterday. The Viceroy asked when Admiral Kabayama was to leave for Formosa, and stated that although Lord Li has made preparations at Shanghai to start for the island, a great disturbance exists there and he thought that the departure of Lord Li would only excite the inhabitants further. He therefore would order that Lord Li proceed to Formosa after Admiral Kabayama had subdued the commotion. The Japanese Government at once replied that Lord Li should be dispatched to Formosa at once, as there is no fear that the mob would become more troublesome after the arrival of Lord Li."

There are, after all, Chinamen who have some faint idea of patriotism, remarks the *Yomiuri*. The other day a Chinese merchant in Yokohama placed a rather large order for a line of cotton goods with a Tokyo manufacturer. The price was agreed upon and the goods sent down to Yokohama. But after closely inspecting them the purchaser indignantly repudiated his contract, stating that he could not buy anything so gratuitously insulting. The goods would never sell in China. On this the manufacturer sent to make inquiries, and discovered that the whole trouble lay in his trademark, which was, of course, stamped indelibly on each piece. The mark consists of two Japanese flags, with the legend *Dai Shori*, "Great Victory." Under the circumstances the seller did not press the matter and consented to take the goods back again, rather in admiration for the spirit shown by his Chinese customer.

The Nippon News Agency publishes the following extraordinary document, which purports to be an exact copy of a letter addressed by Admiral Fremantle to the Japanese plenipotentiary on his arrival at Chefoo:—

H.E. Miyaji Ito.

The Plenipotentiary of Japan.

I am glad to hear your Excellency's arrival for the peace of the East under the majestic command. I desire with my hearty faith to spend a few hours with your Excellency in interesting conversation, and if the meeting be permitted I shall feel it a great honour. I wish to hear from your Excellency about the actual state of the recent progress of Japan and your Excellency's opinion about the oriental questions. As to the systematic regularity and gravity of your Excellency's National Army and Navy and dexterity of their movements, I wish my hearty admiration, deems it to be my

duty to express my information to your Excellency. Let me have the honour of meeting your Excellency.

Fremantle, Commander
of the British Squadron.
7th May 1895.

To H.E. Miyoshi Ito the Plenipotentiary of Japan.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

Amoy, 3rd June.—Formosa Oolongs.—Arrivals amount to 137,345 half-chests, of which 107,599 half-chests are on Foreign account against 70,833 half-chests and 33,868 half-chests respectively at same time last year. There are no settlements in Amoy reported. Amoy Oolongs.—Arrivals are 6,829 half-chests against 5,706 half-chests on level date last year. There are no settlements to report. There are still some 3,000 to 4,000 packages Amoy Oolongs of season 1894-95 unshipped.

Hankow, 3rd June.—Business reported since the 27th ulto. is as under:—

	1895.	1894.
Settlements ...	114,019 ½-chests.	142,354 ½-chests.
Consisting of the following Teas:—		

	per picul.
Ningchows ...	40,780 ½-chests. at Tls. 15.00 to 48.00
Ho-hows ...	3,090 " " 14.40 to 17.00
Oopacks ...	12,012 " " 11.00 to 32.00
Oonams ...	26,561 " " 12.00 to 27.00
Oonfaas ...	26,718 " " 18.50 to 45.00
Seang-tams ...	4,908 " " 10.10 to 14.50

The following are statistics at date compared with the corresponding number of days from the opening of last season, viz., 27 days.

	1895.	1894.
Hankow Tea.		
Settlements ...	468,803 ½-chests.	400,927 ½-chests.
Stock ...	41,573 " "	41,220 " "
Arrivals ...	509,816 " "	445,147 " "

	1895.	1894.
Kiukiang Tea.		
Settlements ...	239,495 ½-chests.	176,417 ½-chests.
Stock ...	11,905 " "	18,745 " "
Arrivals ...	251,400 " "	195,162 " "

The entire business to date as compared with the number of days last year is as under:—

	1895.	1894.
For London and America ...	127,000 ½-chests.	109,000 ½-chests.
For Russia ...	580,798 " "	468,344 " "
	707,798 " "	577,344 " "

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1895-96	1894-95
Canton and Macao ...	314,946 lbs.	273,281 lbs.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96	1894-95
Amoy ...	2,112,164 lbs.	1,176,938 lbs.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1895-96	1894-95
Hankow and Shanghai ...	7,887,401 lbs.	6,893,465 lbs.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96	1894-95
Yokohama ...	1,380,700 lbs.	3,065,001 lbs.
Kobe ...	156,540 lbs.	163,047 lbs.
	1,537,240	3,228,048

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 6th June.—(From Messrs. Cromie and Burkill's circular).—London telegrams dated 4th current report the market "quiet," and make no change in quotations, which remain at 7/6 for Gold Kiling and 9/6 for Blue Elephants. Raw Silk.—Business during the week has been confined to Coarse White Silks and Filatures; total settlements amounting to about 500 bales. Tsatlees.—We hear of no transactions. Offers have been made on the basis of Tls. 310 for Gold Kiling, which have been refused, as prices have gone up in the interior, and dealers are speculating for lower exchange. Taysaams.—A fair demand for 9 by 12 Moss sorts has been in, and Green

Kahings and Chincums at quotations. Yellow Silks.—No new season's silk has arrived yet, and no transactions are reported in old silk. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns from the 30th May to the 5th June, are 615 bales of White, 64 bales of Yellow, and 477 bales of Wild Silk. Re-Reels and Filatures.—Some further contracts have been made in Filatures and Re-reels both for America and for the Continent at the rates quoted below. Wild Silk.—Except 50 bales of Szechuen Tussah Raws at Tls. 107½ we hear of no transactions. Waste Silk.—Musters of new season's cargo are now daily expected. 200 piculs of Tussah Waste No. 1 and 2 changed hands at Tls. 25½ and Tls. 21½ respectively. Pongees.—Contracts have been made for White Pongees 21/22 in. by 70 yards, 56½/57 oz. with 5 per cent. Congee at Tls. 14.30 for 2,000 pieces, without Congee 60 oz. at Tls. 17½ for 500 pieces. Purchases include:—Tsatlees.—Green Elephant (old cargo) at Tls. 330. Taysaam.—Green Kabing M. at Tls. 305, 9/12 Moss Green Stork 3 at Tls. 282½, do. Double Butterfly 2 at Tls. 282½. Chincum.—Peach Tree No. 1 at Tls. 315. China Filature.—Woo-sai-dong Croisée No. 1 at Tls. 500, do. not Croisée No. 1 at Tls. 450. Hon Kong-hing Haining No. 1 at Tls. 460. Re-reels.—Gold Lion at Tls. 307½. Wild Silk.—Szechuen Tussah Raw at Tls. 107½.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1895-96	1894-95
Shanghai ...	348 bales.	125 bales.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1895-96	1894-95
Shanghai ...	478 bales.	21 bales.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 11th June.—Supplies having at last come forward to replenish the stock prices have declined. Quotations for Formosa are \$76.00 to \$76.50. During the past week sales have been 150 piculs. Quotations for Japanese camphor nil.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 11th June.—There has been very little business during the past week and prices have fallen. Following are the quotations:—Shekloong, No. 1, White...\$7.17 to 7.20 per picul. do. " 2, White... 6.66 to 6.70 " Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.67 to 4.70 " do. " 2, Brown... 4.50 to 4.58 " Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.05 to 7.10 " do. " 2, White... 6.62 to 6.65 " do. " 1, Brown... 4.47 to 4.50 " Swatow, No. 2, Brown... 4.28 to 4.30 " Foochow Sugar Candy... 10.10 to 10.20 " Shekloong " 8.98 to 9.00 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The steamer *Maeduff*, Hongkong to New York, 3rd June, took:—35 rolls Matting, 43 cases Bristles, 12 bales Rattans, 349 packages Crackers, 10 cases Joss Sticks, 10 cases Camphorwood Trunks, and 580 packages Merchandise.

The P. & O. steamer *Formosa*, Hongkong to London, 4th June, took:—138 cases Chinaware, 49 cases Blackwoodware, 5 cases Camphorwood Trunk, 7 cases Bambooware, 23 cases Bristles, 1 case Silk Piece Goods, 12 cases Pearl Shells, 8 cases Cigars, 85 bales Canes, 100 bales Waste Silk, 647 rolls Matting, 200 casks Soy, 10 packages Sundries, and 17,098 boxes Tea (33,348 lbs. Congou, 307,314 lbs. Scented Caper, 13,419 lbs. Scented Orange Pekoe, 1,827 lbs. Sorts).

The P. & O. steamer *Rohilla*, Hongkong to London, 6th June, took:—32 packages Canes, 16 cases Silk Piece Goods, 200 bales Waste Silk, and 12,956 boxes Tea (7,560 lbs. Congou, 245,606 lbs. Scented Caper, 18,070 lbs. Scented Orange Pekoe, 840 lbs. Sorts); for Lyons:—68 bales Pierced Cocoons, 1 case Silks, and 325 bales Raw Silk.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 11th June.—Bengal.—There has been a decline in prices, but the market closes steady. Latest quotations are for New Patna \$770, Old Patna \$820, New Benares \$767½, Old Benares \$790.

Malwa.—New drug continues neglected and has further declined, while Old has not undergone any alteration in value. The following are the current figures:—

New ...	\$690 with allow'ce of 2 to 4 cts.
Old (2 to 3 yrs.)	\$720 " 0 to 2 "
" (4 to 5 yrs.)	\$730 " 0 to 2 "
" (6 to 8 yrs.)	\$740 " 10 taels to 2 "

Persian.—There has not been any change in the market during the period under review. Paer-wrapped continues to be quoted at \$760 to \$820 and Oily at \$720 to \$750.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna ...	1,480 chests.
Old Patna ...	170 " "
New Benares ...	490 " "
Old Benares ...	400 " "
Malwa ...	700 " "
Persian ...	1,100 " "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1895.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
June 6	777½	825	780	790	690	720/740
June 7	775	825	780	790	690	720/740
June 8	772½	825	777½	790	690	720/740
June 9	772½	825	777½	790	690	720/740
June 10	770	825	765	790	690	720/740
June 11	770	820	767½	790	690	720/740

RICE.

HONGKONG, 11th June.—There is little change to report in the market. Closing quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary ...	\$2.15 to 2.20 per picul.
" Round, good quality ...	2.32 to 2.35
" Long ...	2.46 to 2.49
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	2.17 to 2.20
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	2.46 to 2.48
Siam White ...	2.95 to 2.98
" Fine Cargo ...	3.15 to 3.17

COALS.

HONGKONG, 11th June.—Small sales of Japanese reported. No change in quotations. Market quiet. Quotations are:—

Cardiff ...	\$12.00 to 13.00 ex ship, steady.
Australian ...	7.75 to 8.00 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Lump ...	6.75 to 7.00 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Small ...	5.75 to 6.25 ex ship, nominal.
Moji Lump ...	5.50 to 6.50 ex ship, nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 11th June.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

COTTON PIECE GOODS AND YARNS.—*Bombay Yarn*.—405 pieces No. 10 at \$66 to \$71.50, 375 pieces No. 12 at \$71 to \$73.50, 175 pieces No. 16 at \$74 to \$79, 715 pieces No. 20 at \$78.75 to \$84.50. *Grey Shirtings*.—500 pieces 10 lbs. Stag Chop at \$3.60, 500 pieces Flower Vase at \$3.62, 700 pieces 7 lbs. Large Eagle at \$1.78, 800 pieces 7 lbs. Red Lion at \$1.72, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Peach at \$2.67, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Stag Chop at \$3.60, 3,800 pieces 8½ lbs. Joss B at \$2.70. *White Shirtings*.—750 pieces Gold Tiger at \$5.60, 150 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.30, 700 pieces No. 500 Cat Head at \$3.20, 650 pieces Gold Goose at \$3.90, 1,600 pieces S. S. at \$4.25, 1,500 pieces S. Q. at \$4.25, 250 pieces Gold Dragon at \$5, 150 pieces No. 66,000 at \$5.25, 250 pieces Woman Chop at \$5.30, 800 pieces Flower Basket at \$2.55, 500 pieces One Chop at \$2.90. *T-Cloth*.—1,500 pieces Max. Gold Dragon B. at \$2.17, 750 pieces Blue Gold Dragon B. at \$2.17, 3,000 pieces Max. 4 Stags at \$2.07, 300 pieces 5 lbs. Red Moon at \$2.60, 2,400 pieces Max. Hunter and S. C. C. at \$2.80, 500 pieces 6 lbs. Bombay at \$1.60. *Velveteens*.—120 pieces 18 in. Blue Stag at \$0.16, 120 pieces Yellow Stag at \$0.17. *Camlets*.—50 pieces 9 Old Men Scarlet at \$16.55, 300 pieces Lighthouse Assorted at \$18.50, 100 pieces A. A. A. Indigo at \$23, 100 pieces B. B. B. Indigo at \$25, 100 pieces 9 Old Men Assorted at \$16.75.

METALS.—*Lead*.—420 pieces Australia at \$6.05. *Tin*.—200 slabs Foong Chai at \$36.50 to \$36.60, 100 slabs Malacca at \$36.50.

SHANGHAI, 6th June.—(From Mr. G. W. Noel's report.)—An important event has taken place during the interval, namely, the cession of the Island of Formosa to Japan, but it has had little or no effect on the minds of the natives here. The Consuls and leading Japanese bankers and firms are expected to resume residence here towards the end of the current month, and the import business that has been more or less interrupted during the last year will doubtless recommence with renewed vigour and determination. As regards business in this department of the trade the week just closing has been devoid of any specially interesting feature. A fair enquiry generally has been experienced for certain classes of goods, these most neglected being, as before, 8-4-lbs. Shirtings and the commoner White Shirtings, but even here orders have been taken for some particular chops of the former, so they can hardly be called unsaleable, although less known brands do not appear to be wanted at any price. For most other Grey goods there is a fairly strong enquiry, but chiefly to arrive for the autumn trade, the dealer evidently placing more confidence in the future. A demand for English Sheetings has sprung

up during the week and sales have taken place at advancing prices, but most holders of stock are asking a further rise, in view of the higher cost of American makes, and this seems likely to cause an improvement in English Drills, also, in the near future. Orders continue to go forward for 12-lbs. Shirtings, Mexicans, and the better White Shirtings and Irishes, but transactions have been somewhat curtailed during the interval owing to the customary Whit week holidays in Manchester. The northern markets are showing rather more activity, the shipments to both Chefoo and Tientsin having improved in a most marked manner during the last week or two, and Ningpo is also beginning to look up. The evacuation of Newchwang and neighbourhood by the Japanese troops has commenced and it is rumoured that recommendations have been received from there to send up some goods. The markets at the river Ports are quiet, and the news recently of serious anti-foreign riots in Szechuen will not help to improve trade in that direction. Although nominally closed, as mentioned above, business has been done with Manchester during the week in spite of the lower exchange. Last month's Export was 31 million yards of Plain Cottons to Hongkong and China and 5,000 bales Yarn, of which Hongkong takes 1,800 bales and 500 bales are for this.

Metals.—(From Mr. Alex. Biefeld's report)—7th June:—Since my last report the prevailing tone has been that of quiet steady trade. I cannot report any improvement on last week; transactions have been few and of no importance. The confidence in exchange has again been shaken by its once more going below 3/. The exports of May show some welcome improvement and if the demand in the north continues to grow it will not be long before stocks here are greatly lessened. Lead.—Nothing worth reporting has been done; small re-sales between natives still continue. L.B. is now quoted at Tls. 4.90. Stocks are about 400/450 tons L.B. and 900/1,000 tons Australian. Iron.—The demand is almost nil, but a few sales have been made as follows:—100 tons Nailroad, "Goffin," at Tls. 2.22½, "spot," and 100 tons Nailroad, "Solier Exp., at 25.2.6, c.i.f., "to arrive." Old Iron.—A fair amount of business is recorded and in this there seems more interest exhibited than in other branches of our local trade. Sales are:—100 tons Old Wire Rope, Private terms; 200 tons London Horse-shoes at 73/ c.i.f., to arrive, 200 tons Scrap Iron, Rd. Sq., Flat 1 foot up 68/ c.i.f. to arrive; 60 tons Old Boiler Plates 1.55 picul spot; 24 tons Steel Bar Cuttings 1.60 per picul spot; 32 tons Old Rigging 1.30 per picul spot; 24 tons Old Axles 1.65 per picul spot.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 11th June.—The inactivity of the market reported in our last few issues has continued, and even been accentuated during the week under review; rates, however, have (with the exception of Banks) not suffered and continue to rule steady.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been on offer at 180 per cent. prem. during the week, but with the exception of a few very small lots which changed hands at that rate we have no business to report; large lots could be obtained at cheaper rates (probably 176 per cent. prem.), but in the absence of business it is difficult to give a closing rate.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have found further buyers at \$66½ and Cantons at \$162½, both closing steady; other Marines have ruled neglected.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Further sales of Hongkong at \$198 and of Chinas at \$86 is all we have to report.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao have ruled weak with small sales at \$32½, at which rate the stock is still obtainable; buyers, however, at \$32 are unable to find shares. Douglas's have ruled easier and have changed hands at \$51½, \$51, and \$50½. Indo-Chinas have steadied and sellers are willing to part at \$54 without finding buyers at the moment. Other Shipping stock is neglected.

REFINERIES.—A small sale of Chinas has been effected at \$110, but shares are obtainable at \$108. Luzons continue neglected.

MINING.—Punjoms in the early part of the week changed hands at \$6.25 and \$6, but on receipt of the result of the first cleaning up by the cyanide process (6 oz. to 128 tons treated); the stock weakened to \$5.75, at which rate shares are obtainable. Shareholders are much disappointed at the miserable result of the cyanide process, and are impatiently awaiting the manager's promised explanation by letter.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Docks have ruled steady with sales at 100 per cent. prem. Lands have again changed hands at \$60 and \$59½, closing steady at former rate, Wanchai Warehouses have found buyers at \$37½. Watsons at \$9½ and \$9½, and Kowloon Wharfs have further improved to \$41½, closing with sales and buyers. Electricies have weakened to \$4.90, shareholders being disappointed at receiving no dividend. We have nothing further to report.

Closing quotations are:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Banks.		
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	176 p. et. pm.
China & Japan L. pref.	...	nom.
Do. ordinary	21	nom.
Do. deferred	21	nom.
Nat. Bank of Ch.		
B. Shares.....	28	\$27, sellers
Foun. Shares.....	21	n. m.
Bell's Asbestos E. }	21	nom.
Agency, Ld. ... }	15s.	\$10, sales
Brown & Co., H. G. }	50	\$4½, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	10	2
China Borneo	55	nom.
China Sugar	100	\$108, sellers
Chinese Loan '86 E. }	Tls. 250	11 p. et. pm.
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	5	1
Dairy Farm Co.	10	18 sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	25	16½
Green Island Cement	50	\$9½, sales & sellers
H. Brick & Cement.	\$12.50	18, sales & buyers
H. & C. Bakery	50	36
Hongkong & C. Gas.	210	\$125, buyers
Hongkong Electric...	8	\$4.90, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways.	100	70, sales
Hongkong Ice.....	25	\$79, sales & buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	50	41½, sales
Hongkong Rope.....	50	\$122, buyers
H. & W. Dock.....	\$125	10½ p. et. pm., sales
Hotels.		
Hongkong Hotel...	50	9, sales & sellers
Shameen	20	4
Insurances.		
Canton	50	\$162½, sales
China Fire	20	\$84, sellers
China Traders' ...	25	\$66½, sales
Hongkong Fire ...	50	\$198, sales
North-China	225	Tls. 195, sellers
Straits Marine.....	20	18, buyers
Union	15	\$162½, sellers
Yangtze	50	93, buyers
Land & Building.		
H. Land Investm't	50	\$59½, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	30	11, sale.
Humphreys Estate	10	8, sellers
West Point Buildg.	40	\$18½, buyers
Luzon Sugar	100	45, sellers
Mining.		
New Balmoral.....	3	\$5.30, buyers
Charbonnages	\$131.58	\$110, sales
Jebeu	5	\$3½, sales & sellers
Punjom	33½	\$5.75, sales
Do. (Preference)	1	\$1.70, sellers
Raub	13s. 10d.	\$4.30, sales & s. llers
Steamship Coys.		
China & Manila ..	50	\$52½, buyers
Douglas S. S. Co.	50	\$50½, sales
H. Canton, & M...	20	\$32, sales
Indo-China S. N...	210	54
W'chai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$37½, sales & buyers
Watson & Co., A. S...	10	9½, sales

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 7th June.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—The market has been dragging during the week. Shares were placed on the 3rd at 180 per cent. premium for cash and 190 per cent. premium for delivery on 31st August. Shares are offering in Hongkong at 180 per cent. premium. The London rate is 244. The market closes weak at 180 per cent. premium. National Bank of China shares are weaker, with sellers at \$30. The Bank of China and Japan, Limited, began business in London on the 1st April last. In lieu of shares in the old Bank, 199,875 ordinary shares in the new Bank, of 28 each, and credited with 5 shillings as paid up, will be issued to those holders of shares in the old Bank who have paid the call of 21; and 1,250 deferred shares of 21 each, credited as fully paid up, will be issued in lieu of the Founders' shares. There will also be 39,950 new preference shares issued, with 25 paid up. A call of 15 shillings on the ordinary shares was due here on the 30th April. Shipping.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares have changed hands at Tls. 130, and Indo-China S. N. shares have been placed at Tls. 40 cash, Tls. 42 for 30th June, and Tls. 43 for 31st July. Docks.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. have been placed at Tls. 140 to Tls. 145. Marine Insurance.—Business has been done in:—North-China at Tls. 198, Unions at \$162½, Yangtszes at \$92½, Cantons,

to Hongkong, at \$162½, and Straits at \$18. Fire Insurance.—Hongkongs have been purchased, from Hongkong, at \$198. Chinas are offering at \$85. Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares have been placed at Tls. 297½, Birt's Wharf shares at Tls. 50, and Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf shares, from Hongkong, at \$40 and \$40½. The market has now improved in Hongkong to \$41. Cargo Boats.—Shanghais have been sold at Tls. 142½ and Co-operatives at Tls. 130. Miscellaneous.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares were sold at Tls. 30 and Tls. 29, Shanghai Land Investment shares at Tls. 57 and Tls. 37, Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares at Tls. 550 cash, Tls. 580 for 31st August, and Tls. 600 for 30th September, Shanghai-Langkat Tobacco shares at Tls. 115 to Tls. 122½ cash and Tls. 125 for 30th June, and Bell's Asbestos shares at \$9½. Loans.—Chinese Imperial E. Loan Bonds were sold at Tls. 251½, and Shanghai Land 6 per cent Debentures at Tls. 100, plus the accrued interest.

Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—180 per cent. prem.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited.—Nominal.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, Founders.—Nominal.
National Bank of China, Ld., A.—\$30.
National Bank of China, Ld., B.—Nominal.
National Bank of China, Ld., Founders.—Nom.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ld.—Tls. 130 per sh.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ld.—Tls. 40 per sh.
China Mutual S. N. Co.—Tls. 50 per share.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ld.—T. Tls. 63 per sh.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$31 per share.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ld.—\$50 per share.
Boyd & Co., Ld., Founders.—Tls. 300 per share.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 155 per share.
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 145 per share.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ld.—100 per cent. premium.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ld.—\$66½ per sh.
North China Insurance Co., Ld.—Tls. 195 per share.
Union Ins. Society of Canton, Ld.—\$162½ per share.
Yangtze Insee. Assocn., Ld.—\$92½ per share.
Canton Insurance Office, Ld.—\$159 per share.
Straits Insurance Co., Limited.—\$18 per share.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld.—198 per sh.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ld.—\$85 per share.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 297½ per share.
Birt's Wharf Hide-curing and Wool-cleaning Company.—Tls. 50 per share.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$40½ per share.
Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 4 per share.
Punjom Mining Co., Ld.—\$6½ per share.
Punjom Mining Co., Ld., pref. shares—\$1.80 per share.
Jebeu Mining & Trading Co., Ld.—\$3½ per sh.
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ld.—\$4½ per sh.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 142½ per share.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 130 per sh.
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 215 per share.
Hongkong Electric Co., Ld.—\$5 per share.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.—Tls. 175 p. sh.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ld.—Tls. 29 p. sh.
China Sugar Refining Co., Ld.—\$105 per sh.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ld.—\$45 per share.
Hall & Holtz, Ld.—\$20 per share.
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld.—Tls. 37 per share.
Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ld.—\$50½ per share.
J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$40 per share.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ld.—Tls. 48 per sh.
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 20 per share.
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 550 p. sh.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ld.—Tls. 122½ per share.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ld., Founders.—Nominal.
Shanghai Ice Company—Tls. 117½ per share.
A. S. Watson & Co., Limited.—\$9½ per share.
L'Hotel des Colonies—Tls. 20.
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ld.—21.
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ld.—\$9.50.
China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company Debentures.—Nominal.
Lyceum Theatre Debentures.—Tls. 12.
Chinese Imp. Gov. Loan, 1886, E.—Tls. 251½ (a).
Shanghai Municipal Debentures.—Nominal.
Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 100 (a).
Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 98.

(a) Exclusive of accrued interest.

Per Shanghai, str., from Hongkong for London.—Messrs. G. W. Ward and C. Acheson.